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CALDWELL









HISTORY  
OF THE  
AMERICAN NEGRO

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GEORGIA EDITION

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EDITED BY  
A. B. CALDWELL

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ORIGINAL EDITION  
ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II  
1920

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A. B. CALDWELL PUBLISHING Co.,  
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## PREFACE

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Volume 11 of the History of the American Negro, Georgia Edition, is being issued three years after the publication of Volume 1. Georgia having the largest Negro population of any State in the Union, it was found that the story of her leaders could not adequately be told in a single volume. This second volume is merely a continuation of the first. The publishers are grateful for the hearty co-operation of the most intelligent men and women of the race, but realize that even yet there are many successful men and women the story of whose lives might profitably be recorded. Some of these have been approached, but have not seen their way clear to furnish the information necessary for the preparation of an adequate biography.

As in the other volumes of this series, the publishers have sought to deal sympathetically with every subject. The information has been gathered through questionnaires and personal interviews.

If this volume is as cordially received as have been the other volumes of the series, we shall be grateful.

THE PUBLISHERS.



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## GEORGE REUBEN HUTTO

Prof. George Reuben Hutto, of Bainbridge, has made for himself an enviable record in several lines of endeavor. He is an experienced educator, a prominent secret order and benevolent society man, a loyal churchman and is also well known in political circles.

He is a native of the sister state of South Carolina, having been born in Barnwell County, March 6, 1871. He grew to manhood in South Carolina. His parents both of whom have passed away, were Richard and Nancy (Daniels) Hutto. His paternal grandparents were Jack and Phoebe Hutto. His maternal grandparents were George and Alice Daniels. Prof. Hutto was married on July 19, 1892, to Miss Addie Dillard, of Columbia. Mrs. Hutto was educated at Benedict College and has entered heartily into the educational work of her husband. In fact she still teaches in the school which they together have built up at Bainbridge. They have two sons, Carroll Hutto and Dr. M. B. Hutto, of Brunswick. As a boy the subject of this biography attended the rural schools of Barnwell County. At an early age he aspired to a college education but the way was not easy. Lacking means, it was necessary for him to make his own way in school. He was not discouraged at this, however, and entered Claflin University at Orangeburg. He worked at whatever offered an opportunity to make money for expenses. He finished at Claflin in 1890. As he looks back over the years of his boyhood and youth he recalls how he was inspired to do his best by Rev. Young. His work as a teacher began at Belton S. C., where he remained for two years. The next year he taught near Camilla, Ga. He was not slow to see the opportunities of that section of Georgia and moved to the State the following year. He located at Bainbridge where he has since resided. When he took charge of the school work there, the term was for five months and the enrollment only a little more than a hundred. The school now runs nine months a year and the enrollment has grown to six hundred. The faculty has been increased from two to nine



GEORGE REUBEN HUTTO.

members in order to meet the growing need of the school. A new building has also been erected under his administration. The character of Prof. Hutto's work has attracted the attention of the leaders and he is frequently engaged to do institute work. His favorite reading is history. He is a member of both the State and National Teachers Associations.

Prof. Hutto is also widely known in secret order circles. He is an Odd Fellow and a Mason. It is as a Pythian, however, that he is best known. He is Grand Chancellor of the Pythians of Georgia and the order has greatly prospered under his leadership. During the eight years he has been at the head of the order it has grown from a membership of eleven thousand to forty-five thousand and the assets have increased from thirty-two thousand to a quarter of a million dollars. A splendid Pythian Temple valued at ninety thousand dollars has been erected at Macon.

Prof. Hutto is a Republican in politics and is active in the councils of his party. He is a member of the State Central Committee and was a delegate to the convention which nominated Judge Hughes for the Presidency.

He is an active member of the Baptist church in which he is a deacon. He is a trustee of Americus Institute.

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## JOHN HENRY ALLEN

Rev. John Henry Allen, of Commerce, an educator and minister who has made for himself a prominent place in his race and denomination, is a native of Birdstown, Greene County, Ga., where he was born March 30, 1878. His mother, Millie Allen, was a daughter of Gloster and Eveline Allen.

As a boy, young Allen had the usual difficulties to overcome in getting a start with his education. The family was poor, and there were frequent breaks in his school work. In 1885 he entered school under Miss Mamie Jackson, in Madison County. At this time he was living on the farm near Athens, and remained on the farm for ten years. When about seventeen years of age, he moved to Alabama and worked for a



JOHN HENRY ALLEN.

while in the ore mines. Prior to this he had attended school at Jeruel Academy for two terms, and in this way was able to fit himself for teaching. Through his work as teacher, combined with farming, he was able to earn more money than he had done before, and thus continued his education at Morehouse College.

In 1898 he was converted and joined the St. Mary's Baptist church at Athens. Soon after, feeling called to the work of the ministry, he was licensed and ordained by the same church and after entering the ministry took up the theological course at Atlanta Baptist College (now Morehouse). He completed this course in 1914.

His first pastorate was at Bush River Church, Banks County, which he served continuously for thirteen years. Since that time he has served the following churches: Gillsville one year, Cornelia one year, Tooeoa one year, Commeree (First Baptist) eleven years, Hurricane Grove ten years, Mt. Perry (Morgan Co.) two years, Royston (First Baptist) one year. Since the beginning of his ministry he has baptized a thousand or more.

In politics he is a Republican, and among the secret orders is identified with the Good Samaritans and the Odd Fellows.

On December 27, 1899, he was married to Miss Olivia Strickland, daughter of Wylie and Dinah Strickland, of Clarke County. They have seven children, as follows: Mabel, Mildred Florenda, Mamie Virginia, Vera May, Dinah Willie, Johnnie Lee and Lillian Jaunita Allen.

He acknowledges with gratitude the good influences on his life of his Christian parents, school and associates, and believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted, not by outside influence, but as he puts it "Let the colored man put every energy to accumulate all the property he can, educate his children, stand by his church and society." In his reading he has found the Bible and books bearing on its study most helpful to him. He has traveled extensively through the Southern States.

Rev. Allen has been doing school work for fifteen years. He began in Clarke County where he taught three years. He has taught five years in Banks Co., and seven in Jackson Co. In

1914 he was chosen principal of the Commerce Model Training School. He enrolled eighty-one his first term. His highest enrollment has doubled that number. New room has been added to building and industrial work has been put under way.

Rev. Allen is assistant secretary of Jeruel Association, Trustee of Jeruel Baptist Institute, Trustee Normal and Industrial School, Social Circle, and Ninth President State S. S. Association.

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## HARVEY VAN BUREN

Dr. Harvey Van Buren, of Statesboro, Ga., is a rising young physician and surgeon of his city and section who, with a commendable ambition to make his life count for something worth while, has refused to be conquered by difficulties, and by the exercise of a strong will and determined energy, has won his way to a growing success and looks out upon a promising future.

He was born at Sumter, S. C., on March 29, 1884, son of James Van Buren, a carpenter, and Harriet (Grantum) Van Buren. The name of his maternal grandmother was Elizabeth Grantum.

From early boyhood, young Van Buren was earnestly desirous of obtaining a higher education, which he knew his parents could not give him, as they had but meager resources and the care of a large family. He took the course, however, at Kendall Institute, at Sumter, and managed to get off to college with the help of a sister who had at that time just finished at Scotia Seminary and secured a position as teacher, and who promised to help him out of her first month's salary, which she did. Thus he entered Biddle University in 1897. Upon arriving there, he frankly stated his situation and determination to the president, who was then D. J. Sanders, and asked the president if he could not provide work to help him earn his way through. Impressed with his earnestness, President Sanders acceded to this request and employed him as a waiter in the dining hall. This place Van Buren held until he





HARVEY VAN BUREN.

won a scholarship by obtaining an average of ninety per cent in his studies, which he then continued to do until his graduation with the A. B. degree in 1902. That he was able to make this high grade in his studies while working to earn his way, is a tribute both to his energy and capacity. Upon leaving college after the completion of this course, he was not satisfied, but wanted a medical education, and so entered Howard University, Washington, D. C., and soon realized that his real difficulties had now begun in earnest. He had there an old friend, C. W. Maxwell, also of Sumter, S. C., and who is now a doctor of some note at that point. Van Buren had about come to the conclusion that it would be better to wait another year before undertaking the medical course; but Maxwell encouraged him to proceed, and this he decided to do, though he had at the time but one suit of clothes and just enough money to pay a half term at the college. At that time the boys would work at boarding houses for two dollars a week and their board. This he did for two years, working at hotels during vacations, and then secured a position in the Government printing office. About that time the lecture hours at the college changed, so that it became necessary either to abandon the course or arrange to take the lectures during the day instead of at night as he was then doing. He was new in the service, and his friends thought he could hardly expect favors, and it was also thought that the head printer, Mr. Stillings, being also a new man, would be unwilling to grant them. However, he determined to make the effort anyhow, and so laid the matter before Mr. Stillings in a letter, with the result that his request was granted and he was changed from the day shift to the night shift. But here again his rugged determination and his capacity were shown, by the fact that while he had to go on duty in the printing office at twelve at night until eight in the morning, and from there to school all day until half past five in the afternoon—the only hours he had for sleep being from seven in the evening to half past eleven at night, he proceeded to complete the course, and did so in a creditable manner, winning his M.D. degree in 1907. In the meantime, it is not surprising that his weight, which is normally about two hundred, had been reduced to a hundred and

forty-five. He then entered upon the practice at Washington, but still not satisfied with his attainments, took a post graduate course at Boston College of Physicians and Surgeons, which was completed in 1910. In 1911 he located at Louisville, where he practiced till 1915, when he removed to Statesboro, where he does a large general practice with a view to confining himself to surgery. He was resident physician at North End Dispensary and Hospital, Boston, for two years.

Looking back now, he feels that his parents were the predominant influence in shaping his life. His boyish love for sports was indulged to some extent in football and skating. Since leaving college he has visited most of the Eastern States and traveled through a large part of Canada. His predilection for poetry, as well as the superior quality of his literary taste, is indicated by the preference in his reading for such authors as Shakespeare, Tennyson and Paul Lawrence Dunbar; and he doubtless derives satisfaction from the fact that a man of Mr. Dunbar's high standing as a poet and a man of letters is a member of his own race. Now that he is fairly launched out on his lifework, he has a laudable ambition to accumulate some property. He has taken no active part in politics, but is inclined toward the Republican party. He is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and among the secret orders is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, in which he has held the position of Master of the Exchequer. He takes a justifiable pride in the fact that the Negroes of Georgia own property aggregating between seventy-five and eighty millions of dollars, and believes that the interests of the race in the state and nation can best be promoted by having good leaders and by being honest, industrious and accumulating property. He does an extensive country practice and at Statesboro he has completed a modern sanitarium at a cost of \$6,-500.00.

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## CLINTON BARDEN

Down in Dodge County is a young man and his family whose success is at once a credit to them and an example to the other young people of the race. Clinton Barden is a native of Dodge County, having been born there October 21, 1880.

His father was Amos Barden, a farmer and turpentine man. His mother, before her marriage was Mary Simmons. Caleb and Jane Simmons were his maternal grandparents and his great grandmother was Lottie Yarbrough.

Young Barden attended school at Eastman Academy, and, when 21 years of age, was married to Miss Ida Rozier, a daughter of Harry and Bettie Rozier, of Dodge County. They have six children, Bertha Lee, Oscar, Milton, Lucile, Curtis and Alton Barden.

Clinton worked on his father's farm till he was twenty years of age. At that time he began farming for himself. He had the wisdom to begin buying land early and promises to outstrip the record of his father. Already he has accumulated nearly a hundred and fifty acres of land and one town lot, runs a four-horse farm valued at between five and six thousand dollars.

In politics he is a Republican and is a member of the Baptist Church.

He believes that the permanent progress and development of his race awaits competent leaders and a spirit of co-operation among the people, morally, spiritually and in a business way.

Mr. Barden makes from thirty to forty bales of cotton each year. His children are being given good educational advantages and Mr. Barden keeps up with the news of the world through the newspapers. He has traveled over the state considerably. From a beginning far from encouraging, Mr. Barden has by dint of hard work forged his way ahead until he occupies a place in his community of which any man might well be proud. He has pointed the way by which others may succeed if they are willing to pay the price by hard work, good sense and economy.



CLINTON BARDEN AND FAMILY.

## JOHN KELLY DAVIS

Rev. John Kelly Davis, D. D., a strong man of the A. M. E. connection now (1919) stationed at Acworth, is one of those energetic, progressive ministers who do not allow obstacles to discourage nor difficulties defeat them. Growing up in poverty on the farm, he turned early to the work of the church and the Gospel ministry and after joining the Conference pushed his work with such vigor that he rose rapidly from a mission appointment to the head of the district in a few years. He was born at Marion, S. C. Later the family went to live in the adjoining county, Horry. It was here that young Davis grew to manhood and was married. He has no record of the exact date of his birth, but it was about 1869. He was married in 1887 to Miss Fannie Holt, of Horry Co., S. C. Of the children born to them, three are living. They are Gussie (now Mrs. Gaskin), Josephine and Henry Davis. Dr. Davis' parents were Paul and Lucy Davis. His grandparents on the paternal side were Paul and Polly Brown. His mother's mother was Rachel Davis. Young Davis attended school at Beauty Spot, near Marion, and after entering upon the work of the ministry took a correspondence course in Theology from Morris Brown University of which he is a trustee.

He was converted at the early age of twelve and only about three years later felt called to preach. He taught school one year after coming to Georgia. In 1898 he joined the Conference at Darien, under the late Bishop Turner. His first Conference appointment was the Atkinson Mission where he preached three years and built three churches. After that he served the Dupont Circuit two years and built one church, and Valdosta Circuit three years where a church was repaired. From Valdosta he went to Pearson one year and then to Bulloch County one year. His next charge was the Broxton Circuit which he served two years. One church was repaired here, after which he was sent to the Offerman Circuit two years, then to Mount Zion Station and repaired church. He was sent to Waycross for two years at the expiration of which time he was promoted to the head of the District as pastor for one



JOHN KELLY DAVIS.

year. He pastored the important station at St. Andrews, Darien, one year and Smithville nearly two years. Toward the end of the second year at Smithville a vacancy occurred at Madison. At the request of the Bishop he filled out the Conference year at the end of which (1918) he was assigned to Acworth where he took hold of the work vigorously and in 1919 repaired the church. He has had the pleasure of seeing the work at various points grow under his administration and has brought into the church an average of at least forty new members a year. Over two thousand members have been received into the church under this administration.

During the Valdosta pastorate alone one hundred and fifty were brought in. His property interests are at Valdosta.

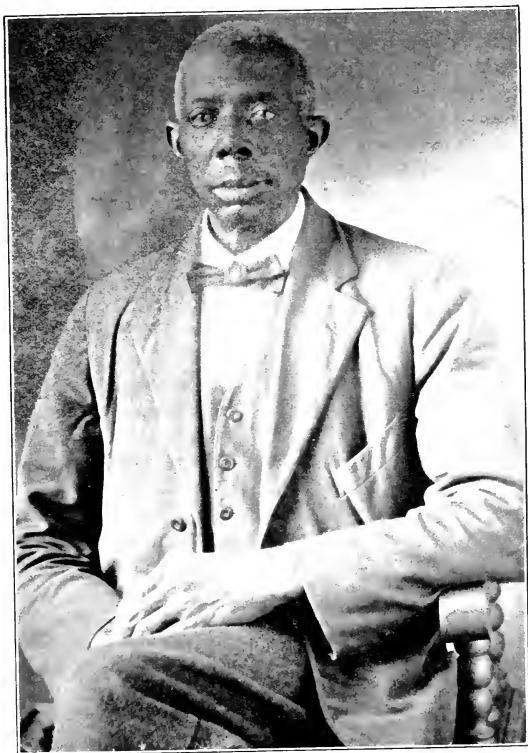
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## HENRY ALBERT BURGE

Rev. H. A. Burge, who for forty years has been active in the work of the Baptist ministry and for almost the same length of time a teacher in the public schools of the State, is also a successful farmer and business man. His successful career has not been due to any fortunate circumstances or good luck but rather to hard work and close application to whatever his hands have found to do. He was nearly eleven years old before the war closed and brought him the longed for opportunity to get an education. He was born near Old Pinchneyville in Gwinnett County, September 14, 1854. His father, John Burge, was a man of intelligence and was foreman on the big plantation of his master. His mother was Nancy Dorsey before her marriage. She was a daughter of Ritter Dorsey. Ritter Dorsey was free born, her mother having in some way purchased her freedom long before Emancipation. Henry Burge's paternal grandparents were John and Peggy Burge, who lived to be very old.

In 1867 Henry Burge's father died. He was the oldest boy of the family and had to work hard almost as far back as he can remember. In the summer of 1868 he went to school three weeks and then the way seemed to close up as it was necessary





HENRY ALBERT BURGE.

to go to work again. He was not to be discouraged, however, and determined to secure an education. Accordingly he applied himself most diligently. He would work to help support his mother and then go to school for a few weeks during the summer. His books were not put aside during vacation. He would take lessons from anyone he could get to hear him. Comparatively few of the colored people were then sufficiently educated to be of much assistance. So he depended largely on his white friends in the community. He denied himself most of the pleasures of boyhood and young manhood in his arduous struggle to fit himself for a place of usefulness in life. He kept no regular hours but frequently read till late at night and sometimes nearly all the night.

At the age of sixteen he was converted and joined the Mt. Olive Baptist church. He soon felt called to the work of the ministry and was ordained in 1878. Since that time he has pastored Mt. Olive four years Liberty Hill, Canton, and has also pastored churches in Cobb, Cherokee and Pickens Counties. He is chairman of the Executive Board of the Kennesaw Association. His work as a teacher began at Hickory Flat, Cherokee County, in 1879. And he has taught continuously since. He taught at Ball Ground twelve years and built the North Georgia Industrial School. He has also taught with signal success in the county schools of Cobb County and is now filling out his second year as principal of the Acworth public school. Rev. Burge has also found time for farming which he has followed steadily and successfully.

Rev. Burge has been married twice. First on May 8, 1879, to Miss Georgia Grisham, a daughter of Levi and Mary Grisham. After her death he was next married to Miss Frances Strickland, a daughter of Squire and Harriet Strickland. The living children are John L., Mary B., Lena W., Miles N., James A., Naney H., Ella R., Lessie J., Annie L. H., and Arthur E. Burge.

As he looks back over his life he recognizes with gratitude the good influences of his mother especially.

In politics he is a Republican and at one time made a strong race for tax receiver of Cherokee County. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows. He has seen great changes in the religious educational and economic life

of his people in this generation and as a faithful worker and leader has done his part to give proper direction to the thought and activities of his people. He is held in high esteem by both the white and colored people of his section.

His favorite book is the Bible and to this he gives most attention, though he reads extensively the best general literature

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## EDWARD BYRD

Among both the white and the colored people of Hall County, the Byrds are known as industrious and reliable. Edward Byrd, the subject of this sketch, is a teacher of prominence and belongs to the younger generation. He was born in Hall County, October 1, 1881. His father, James Byrd, who is still living (1920), is a prosperous farmer in the Little River section. He married Miss Sarah Smith, and together they have worked and reared a large family. Edward Byrd's grandfather, Joe Byrd, is still living (1920) at a ripe old age.

As a boy Edward went to school, first at Little River Academy, and later at Gainesville. He was ambitious, however, for still better preparation and matriculated at Clark University and pursued the course through the first year normal. Between terms he worked on the farm and while at school worked out his board about the place.

Prof. Byrd began teaching as a very young man and enjoys the distinction of having been called to the Little River Academy, where, as a small boy he himself attended school. Such has been the character of his work as a teacher that for fourteen consecutive years he has been re-elected to the same school. During this time the school has doubled in enrollment, and Prof. Byrd has seen his boys and girls grow up to men and women of usefulness in the community.

In addition to his teaching, Prof. Byrd is also a successful farmer. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church, clerk of his church, and assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School. He is not affiliated with the



EDWARD BYRD.

secret orders. He keeps up with present day affairs through the current papers. Apart from this his favorite reading is history and poetry.

Prof. Byrd early in life recognized the need of adequate preparation and was willing to undergo hardship and practice the most rigid economy to attain unto the ends he sought. While attending the school at Gainesville young Byrd was the recipient of the kindness of an uncle and aunt who took the young man into their home as one of their family. He is still grateful to them for the kindness extended to him in his boyhood days. Prof. Byrd together with his father and brother, own a farm of two hundred and eighty-five acres. He says that his first bank account started with his first year as teacher and that he has had an account with the bank ever since.

Prof. Byrd is making for himself a large place in the educational and business life of his people in Hall County. He is a hard worker, who works intelligently, and believes that education and religion will solve the problems of the race.

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## JOSEPH SIMSON CAMPBELL

Rev. Joseph Simson Campbell, of Harlem, a preacher and presiding elder of the A. M. E. Zion Church, has by dint of hard work and close application to his duty won a place of leadership in his denomination and in his community.

He was born at Greensboro soon after the war, on September 20, 1868. His parents, Robt. Campbell and Rachel (Mallory) Campbell were both slaves. His father was a farmer with a mechanical turn of mind which the son seems to have inherited. His paternal grandparents were Clyde and Edith Campbell. His maternal grandparents were Joseph and Diana Mallory. Joseph Mallory was among the first colored men in Green County to own land.

As a boy young Campbell attended the public schools in Green and Putnam counties, but was compelled to work most of the time to help support the family. This retarded his progress but did not discourage or defeat him. He was apprenticed



JOSEPH SIMSON CAMPBELL.

to a contractor at Eatonton and later at Macon where he learned carpentry which he has followed since 1888 and which has been a great help to him in winning his way to higher things.

In 1892 he was converted and joined the A. M. E. Zion Church at Tuskegee, Ala. When about thirty years of age he felt called to the work of the ministry and was licensed in 1898 and ordained in 1900. He joined the Conference at Augusta under Bishop I. C. Clinton. Since that time he has been active in the work of the church. His first pastorate was the Simpkin's Chapel Circuit which he served for four years. After that he was at the Macon Mission one year, Jones Chapel Circuit three years, Wynne's Chapel Circuit one year, returned to Jones Chapel one year, Green Grove Circuit two years, and Social Chapel Station, Augusta, for a short time. In 1911, he was promoted to the Athens District over which he presided for five years, when he was transferred to the Augusta District and presided over that district three years. In 1918 he was stationed at Monroe, Ga. He has been active in evangelistic work.

While Elder Campbell confesses that he was not as frugal as he should have been in his early days, yet he has prospered during the last ten years and has accumulated considerable property. Among the secret orders, he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Masons, the Pythians and the Grand United Gospel Aid Society. He is the Grand Secretary of the latter organization.

Determined to fit himself for his work in life, Dr. Campbell went to school at twenty-four and later took a course at Tuskegee. In addition to this, he is a constant reader and thus keeps up with the times. Next after the Bible he puts books on theology and the best American and English authors.

On September 16, 1906, he was married to Miss Fludie Bell Allen, a daughter of Jacob Scott and Patsy Allen. They have two children, Joseph Allen and Alice Rachel Campbell. Still in the prime of manhood, Dr. Campbell gives promise of years of faithful service to his denomination and to his race. He believes the avenues of usefulness and the ways to success will

open up to members of his race in proportion as they show themselves worthy.

He has attended three general conferences of his church and is now connectional trustee. He has for years been secretary of the South Georgia Conference. Before entering the ministry, he taught for three years and has since had attractive educational positions offered him. He is now (1920) candidate for the General Secretaryship of his denomination at the next General Conference. With reference to the Grand United Gospel Aid Society of which he is Grand Secretary, Rev. Campbell says: "This is an organization that has done much for the race, and it is destined to prove a continued blessing to the people of the race from the fact that (while it is a secret organization) it takes in to its membership human beings regardless of age, creed or condition, after ascertaining that such person or persons are of a good reputation. It fully believes that to be in keeping with that name Grand United Gospel Aid, that it should not fail to take into the said organization, any one of good reputation, regardless of age, or condition.

This organization was founded October, 1885, by C. B. Johnson, with the assistance of Step. P. Echols, M. P. Pie, Ben Cox, and Squire Fleming.

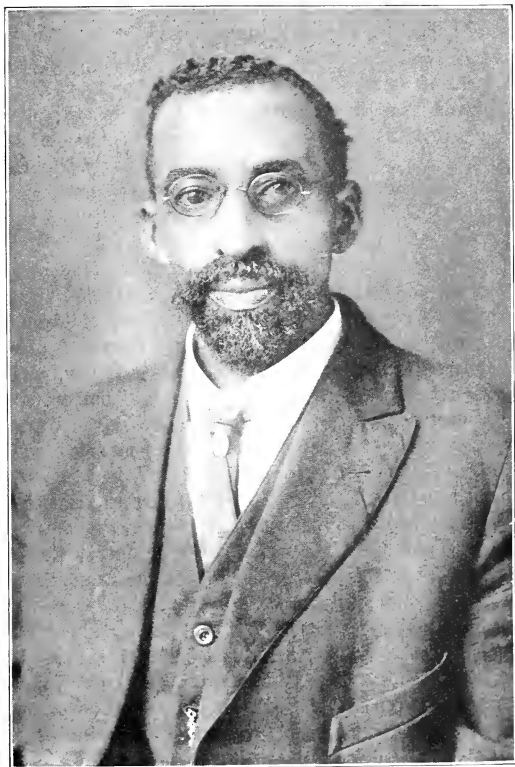
It has organized since the commencement, 78 lodges in the State and has built up a membership of over 3,000. It raises thousands of dollars annually for the benefit of relief, sick and deceased members. It has a state charter and has at present the following named persons as its chief officers: T. C. Willingham, Grand Supervisor; Rev. J. S. Campbell, Grand Secretary; B. G. Evans, Grand Treasurer. With headquarters at Union Point, Ga."

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON GHOLSTON

Rev. George Washington Gholston, a prominent minister of the A. M. E. Church, and a prosperous and successful farmer and dairyman, of Dekalb Co., has worked out for himself and





GEORGE WASHINGTON GHOLSTON.

family a measure of success which entitles him to a place among the leaders of his race in Georgia. He was born in slavery, on March 3, 1860, and was five years of age when the war closed. His father, Union Gholston, was also his master. His mother was Adeline Liddell. Both Rev. Gholston and his wife were born in Gwinnett County.

Young Gholston grew up on the farm and early learned to do all sorts of farm work. Coming of school age at a time when schools were inadequate and his people still poor, his schooling was limited to the country public schools of his native county. He has not allowed this lack of early opportunity, however, to discourage him, but has, by energy and perseverance, accomplished more than many other men of superior education.

On Christmas Day, 1879, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Castleberry of Dekalb County. She was a daughter of Susan Castleberry. They have reared a family of six children all of whom have grown to maturity. They are George R., Cora L. (Mrs. Jones, Doraville), David, Atlanta; Henry, Atlanta; Fred, Atlanta, and Rev. Timothy Gholston, pastor of First Church, Decatur. There are twelve grandchildren living. His children are buying homes and saving their money.

After Mr. Gholston was grown to manhood, he was converted and joined the A. M. E. Church. The following year he began preaching and has since been active in the work of the ministry. He joined the Conference at Washington, Ga., under Bishop Gaines. His first assignment was the Stone Mountain Circuit which he served less than a year. He was then appointed to the Doraville Circuit where he remained for five and a half years. After that he served Cedar Grove and Hoschton one year, Winder Circuit two years, and New Hope three and a half years. At New Hope a new house of worship was erected. Repairs were made at various other points.

In 1910, he retired from the active pastorate and was by the Conference designated as an evangelist for the North Georgia Conference. He assists the brethren when called upon, but devotes the larger part of his time to his business interests. He owns an attractive place which is devoted to general farming, trucking and dairying. He gives his personal attention

to the trucking and dairying and markets his produce in Atlanta by motor truck. He has lived at the same place for thirty years and has a comfortable, well furnished home.

Rev. Gholston is a trustee of Morris Brown University. He does not belong to the secret orders and takes no active part in politics. He believes that the permanent progress of the race must be built on morality and frugality. He is himself a good example of what can thus be accomplished.

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## FRANK MULFORD HILL

Among the younger professional men of the state, who have taken time to make adequate preparation for a place of large usefulness in the race, must be mentioned Dr. Frank Mulford Hill, of Eastman. Dr. Hill, though fully identified with the work of his race in Georgia, is a native of Ohio, having been born at Dayton on November 25, 1882. His father, John Mul-ton Hill, passed away in 1900. His mother was Elizabeth Ryall before her marriage. Her father was James Ryall.

As a boy, Dr. Hill attended the public schools of Kansas. Such is the character of the public schools of Kansas as compared with the South, that he was able to go directly from the public schools to the University of Kansas, where he remained one year. He was an active, energetic youth and earned the money for his expenses.

Having made up his mind to enter the medical profession, he matriculated at Meharry College, Nashville, in 1910, and won his M. D. degree in 1914. While taking his medical course, he was employed at the Nashville Terminal Station and made full time without prolonging his medical course. This is a fair measure of both his energy and his intellectual capacity, for while making full time at the station, he was keeping up with young men who were devoting their whole time to their books. Dr. Hill has traveled considerably through the South and the middle West.

After looking over the field, he located at Eastman, the county seat of Dodge County, and in September, 1915, began there



FRANK MULFORD HILL.

the general practice of medicine. Already (1920) he has established himself in the confidence of the best people of both races. His relationship with the white doctors of Eastman is most cordial. He is surrounded by a large population of prosperous colored people and his future prospects are bright. Though not active in politics, he is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist church. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and the Pythians. His favorite reading runs to the classics. He believes that the permanent progress of the race must await better educational facilities.

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## JOHN WESLEY HOWARD

Rev. John Wesley Howard, a rising young educator and Baptist minister, of Dalton, is a native of the sister state of Alabama, having been born in Macon County, Alabama, December 14th, 1887.

His father, Walter Howard, who was a slave before emancipation, farmed after the war. He passed away when the boy was only twelve years of age.

His mother, who before her marriage, was Ibbie Jackson, lived to see her son grow up and enter the ministry.

Rev. Howard's maternal grandparents were Joe and Priscilla Jackson. He knows nothing of his paternal grandparents.

While young Howard was still a small boy, the family moved to Montgomery, Ala., and when he came of school age, he was sent to the public schools of that city. He was converted when about sixteen years of age and joined the Baptist Church.

Two years later he felt called to preach and was licensed and ordained to the full work of the ministry by his home church.

Prior to this he had matriculated at Stillman Institute, Tuscaloosa, where he took the Normal Course.

When it is remembered that the boy was deprived of the care and direction of his father at twelve years of age, his difficulties in getting an education will be appreciated.



JOHN WESLEY HOWARD.

He worked on the farm in the summer and went to school in winter. After he was able to secure a teacher's license, he found the way easier. He taught several terms in Alabama. Later he took up his theological course at Morehouse College, which he completed in 1916.

During vacation time he entered the Pullman service which took him well over America and gave him a fund of information and experience not to be had from the books.

In 1916 he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Dalton, which he resigned two years later, and accepted the call of the Mountain Ridge Baptist Church and the principalship of the school at the same place. He also pastored the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church at East Rome, where under his administration considerable improvement has been made on the church property and the spiritual life of the church has been quickened.

In 1919 Rev. Howard resigned as pastor of Mountain Ridge and accepted a call to the pastorate of the Friendship Baptist Church of Chickamauga. He preaches at Friendship one Sunday in the month and his work there has already resulted in the erection of a new \$5,000.00 house of worship. Rev. Howard is District Organizer of the local B. Y. P. U. Convention and Asst. Secretary of the North Georgia General Missionary Baptist Association.

On December 23rd, 1917, he was married to Miss Birdie Lee Sutherland, a daughter of Tom Sutherland, of Dalton, where she was a capable teacher in the city schools. Mrs. Howard is a graduate of Spellman Seminary. They have one child, Mary Catherine Howard.

Rev. Howard is a Republican in politics and is identified with the Pythians and the Masons.

He owns some property in Oklahoma. He believes that the permanent progress of the race depends on the right sort of education.

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## LINTON STEPHENS INGRAHAM

Prof. Linton Stephens Ingraham, principal of the Sparta Agricultural and Industrial Institute, of which he is also the founder, has had a rich and varied experience, but has settled down to his permanent life work near the point where he was born and reared in Hancock County. He was born on Aug. 24, 1855, and remembers distinctly the closing scenes of the war between the States. His parents, Samuel and Eliza Ingraham, were both slaves. His mother and the little boy were sold to Judge Linton Stephens, himself a distinguished man, and brother to Hon. A. H. Stephens, Vice President of the Confederacy. After Emancipation, the mother took the boy and moved away from the Stephens place, but returned in 1870.

When a boy of 12, he attended the night school for one year and then entered a day school for a short term. About this time, his father became heavily involved in debt and, finding that he could not make ends meet, bound Linton out to pay the debt. The man to whom he was bound proved to be cruel to the boy, so after a few days he ran away and went to Crawfordville, where he hired himself out at ten dollars per month. It was fortunate for young Ingraham that he should have stopped at Crawfordville for this was the home of Alex. Stephens, who, learning that the boy was trying to study and get an education, interested himself in the young negro and invited him to take lessons at his home at night. This Linton gladly did for a whole year. Such was his progress that in the following year, 1875, he was able, through his benefactor, Mr. Stephens, to secure a school at Raytown, in Taliaferro County. With the money he earned here, he went to the Augusta Institute, then under the management of Dr. Roberts. In 1876 he was sent to Atlanta University by Mr. Stephens, through whose influence he was able to secure good schools during his vacations in Wilkes, Oglethorpe and Taliaferro counties. His progress in college was steady and satisfactory but when in his junior year, 1883, Mr. Stephens died and he found it necessary to leave college for lack of means. He went to southwest Georgia and taught at Cuthbert and Dawson for five years





LINTON STEPHENS INGRAHAM.

and at Dahlonega for one year. In 1894 he organized a school at Tallapoosa, where he remained for four years and was then called to the head of the Rome public schools, where he rendered acceptable service for ten years. In 1909, he purchased property near Sparta in Hancock County, and the following summer organized what has come to be known as the Sparta Agricultural and Industrial Institute.

Such has been the quality of his work that he has done that he has been able to command the co-operation of the best white people in Sparta and has also drawn financial help from Northern sources and has thus been able to place his school on a substantial basis, and render to his people larger service than most of the independent schools have been able to do.

On February 19, 1886, he was married to Miss Anna Turner, of Cuthbert, Georgia. She is a daughter of Clara Turner and is herself a brilliant teacher, having begun teaching at the age of thirteen. Four years after her marriage she entered Atlanta University and finished the course in 1894. Professor and Mrs. Ingraham have one child, a daughter, Maude, now Mrs. Warren.

Though not active in politics, he is a Republican and a member of the A. M. E. Church. His educational work is favorably reported in the Bulletin on Negro Education issued by the United States Commissioner of Education.

Among the many treasured mementos of his two benefactors, the Stephens brothers, Prof. Ingraham preserves and prizes an autographed copy of the Life of Linton Stephens and a number of personal letters from Alex. Stephens.

The Sparta Agricultural and Industrial Institute of which Prof. Ingraham is principal, now has on a campaign to raise twenty-five hundred dollars with which to purchase furniture for the new building. The institution is making remarkable progress and is working along the same lines as Tuskegee, Hampton and other industrial institutions.

Prof. Ingraham believes that many of the racial difficulties will be removed when schools of this kind are established and the people trained along industrial lines. Mr. J. H. O'Neil, president of the Federal Trust Company of Boston, is treasurer of the New England Board of Trustees.

## ROSAMOND KAY

Rev. Rosamond Kay, of Cartersville, though still a young man, is doing good work in both the educational and religious fields and is besides a good business man. He has won his way up steadily from a place of obscurity, largely through his own efforts. He was born at Cartersville, July 9, 1888. His parents were Charley Kay and Frances (Anderson) Kay. His maternal grandmother was Hettie Anderson. His paternal grandfather was George Kay. Both were slaves in South Carolina and after Emancipation, by their thrift and energy did well.

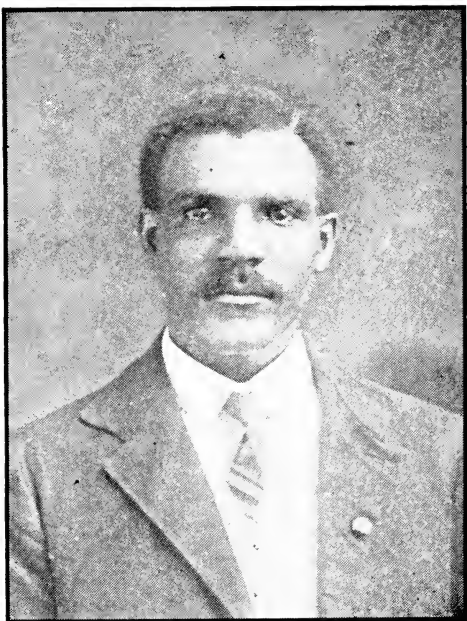
Young Kay went to school at Cartersville as a boy, and later attended Jeruel Academy at Athens. He was graduated from this institution in 1911.

When he was about twelve years of age, he was converted and joined the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Some two years later he felt called to preach and was by his home church licensed and ordained to the full work of the ministry.

Mr. Kay was able to complete his course at Jeruel Academy only by hard work, close economy and by denying himself many of the things which a boy greatly desires.

There was something, however, which he desired more for he had set his heart on preparing himself for his life work and would not permit the difficulties in the way to discourage him. Perhaps his best recommendation is the fact that when through school, he went back to his home county to teach and to preach among the people who knew him best. His first pastorate was the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Cartersville, followed by work at St. John, Rockmart; Macedonia, Esom Hill; and a good deal of evangelistic work over the association. He is President of the B. Y. P. U. Convention of the Kennesaw Baptist Association and General Missionary of the Kennesaw Sunday School Convention. His first school was at Linwood. Later he taught at Athens, Carlton and was for some time principal of the school at Kingston. He is now principal of the Adairsville Industrial school as well as a successful pastor.

On January 25, 1914, he was married to Miss Lena Priece of Cartersville. They have one child, Rosamond, Jr. Rev. Kay



ROSAMOND KAY.

believes that the permanent progress and development of his people must rest on true religion. He has already accumulated considerable property and has the promise of a bright future.

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## AARON BARTON MURDEN

One of the most energetic and aggressive leaders of the Baptist denomination in Georgia is Rev. Aaron Bartow Murden, of Athens, who for twenty years has been actively identified with the work of his denomination. He is a native of Crawfordville, where he was born August 25, 1865. His parents, Jerry and Sarah Ann Murden, were both slaves. His father was a wheelwright. The name of his paternal grandfather was David, who was brought direct from Africa. His maternal grandfather's name was James, and was a full-blooded Indian.

Coming on the scene just after the close of the war between the States, young Murden had the most meager opportunities to fit himself for the work of life. His difficulties were made all the greater by the death of his father when the boy was only three years of age. Fortunately for him, however, he had a Christian mother who started him off in the right direction; and while his playmates and associates were wild enough, young Murden grew up in the shadow of that great Georgia statesman, Alexander Stephens; and while the great statesman may never have known that he was by his example quietly influencing the life of the poor negro boy, yet young Murden received great inspiration and encouragement from the example set by Mr. Stephens, and his ambitions were aroused by the honors heaped upon him, and he determined early in life as far as possible to do for his own people just what Mr. Stephens was doing for his.

As a boy he attended the public schools at Crawfordville; and these, it must be remembered, were in every way poorly equipped. They ran for only three months a year, and not infrequently the boy was unable to attend the whole of even that short term. By the time he was fourteen or fifteen he had



AARON BARTON MURDEN.

reached the Third Reader; then determined to go to Atlanta to complete his education. He had managed to save twenty-five dollars; but arriving at college he found that his funds were insufficient, and finding a man hiring hands for railroad work, he was employed at the age of about fifteen, and thus earned money to go to college. The story of his struggles reads more like romance than biography. Having learned that he must have money to get an education, he built him a rude shack in the woods near his work, and by doing his own cooking and living in the most primitive sort of way managed to get along at an expense of about three dollars a month. He had worked at Crawfordville at fifty dollars a year and managed to save half of that; but now he was put on at a dollar and twenty-five cents a day, and such was the character of his work that he was soon advanced to a dollar fifty and then to a dollar seventy-five. He kept his savings under a big rock in the woods, and in the fall of 1882 was able to enter the Atlanta Baptist College with sufficient funds to carry him through the year. Not only so, but he took his brother along at the same time. Four years later he was graduated from the Academic Department, then took up his Theological course, which was completed in 1889. In 1909 the same institution conferred on the degree of D. D. in recognition of his scholarship and the splendid work he has done in Georgia. For ten years he was a successful teacher.

Dr. Murden was converted at about fifteen years of age, and soon after felt called to the work of the ministry. He was licensed by his home church in Crawfordville in 1886, and on July 14, 1888, was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church, and immediately called to the work of a State Missionary by the Georgia Baptist Convention. For four years he was engaged in this work, and was then called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Lagrange, at the same time serving as Corresponding Secretary of the State Convention. From Lagrange he was called to Hill's First Baptist Church, of Athens, where for six and a half years he had a very fruitful pastorate, though still acting as Corresponding Secretary. At the end of that time the work had grown to such proportions that he found it necessary to resign the pas-

torate in order that he might give his whole time to the development of the denominational interests over the state. He has under his direction the Sunday School and Missionary interests of the denomination, and his work takes him frequently to every part of the State. He is one of the most widely known men of the denomination in Georgia. He is an effective speaker, a man of winsome personality, and at the same time a teacher and leader of men. He conducts numerous institutes for the training of the ministers, deacons and Sunday School workers, and his reports to the State Convention show the progress that the work has made under his hand. Early in life he was more or less active in politics, and was one time a member of the Republican State Central Committee. He is a trustee of Jeruel Academy, Atlanta Baptist College, Walker Baptist Institute, and is thus fully identified with the educational work of the denomination in the State. Although his time for evangelistic work has been limited, yet he has done enough to indicate what he might have accomplished along that line had he turned his talents in that direction. He has perhaps baptized more than a thousand people during his ministry, at least four hundred being added to the church at Athens alone while he was pastor.

On October 29, 1891, he was married to Miss Dora Amelia Jackson, of Atlanta, who was educated at Spelman Seminary, and who was engaged in teaching before her marriage to Dr. Murden. They have three children living. These are Jacob Samuel, now a young man; Willie Salena and Ruth Lois.

Dr. Murden writes occasionally for the religious press, and is well informed on every phase of the activity of his denomination. He is a believer in education, in progress, and in all those things which are being advocated for the betterment of the race, provided always they have the religion of Jesus Christ at the center of them.

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## PERCY GARDNER SHADD

It is not often that the study of existing law and the practice thereof in the courts challenges the abilities of a member of the negro race; and it is even less frequently that one already familiar with the history of jurisprudence and the practical technique of the courtroom makes a political race for the purpose of expounding his own platform, and if elected trying to enact it into statutory law. In Percy Gardner Shadd of Augusta we have an example which is almost unique and as we may expect he is in no sense a commonplace man.

Born in Tennessee on September 17, 1879, he perhaps inherited or acquired from the very atmosphere of that much disrupted and divided State the vigor of opinion and tenacity of purpose characteristic of that highly independent people. His father, Levi D. and his mother, Vandalia (Springer) Shadd, lived and worked on a farm a little way from the town of Martin. They sent the boy to the public schools for his elementary education, and taught him to do wholesome farm work. Later he had the advantages of attending Howe College, Memphis, and Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., from which institution he graduated in 1907. To this has been added from time to time special study in law, and travel over all parts of the continent. He was admitted to the bar of Weakley County, Tenn., in 1908, and at once entered upon the practice of law, and combined it with scientific farming.

Unlike most of the men of his race, he had no early difficulties to overcome, and had a known ancestry of whose moral worth any man may well be proud.

His great-great-grandfather, a slave in North Carolina, bought freedom for himself and one son, paying \$1,500, much of which money he earned as a shad fisherman, from which comes the family name, also given to a town in Weakley County built by his father and grandfather, who settled at that point, penniless, after the close of the war and with nothing but freedom—and this late in the life of the elder—founded schools, built churches, and created a community where there had been nothing but a swamp. His grandfather, beginning as



PERCY GARDNER SHADD.

a freedman after he was 50 years old, accumulated 75 acres of land and considerable other property before his death, at eighty, and his father, Levi Shadd, has fine farming and some town property, being the largest colored taxpayer in that section. Nor were the Springers less endowed with those traits which mean success they likewise having come through much the same experiences of slavery, penniless freedom and finally the freedom of hard-won prosperity. Mr. Shadd preserves the family traditions and has a comfortable property already in Georgia, where he is now fully identified.

Mr. Shadd believes that the best interests of the race are to be served by a friendly spirit and a common sense acceptance of conditions as they are, and doing the best with them.

He deplores restlessness, extravagance, dissatisfaction and chimerical ideas that are opposed to self-help.

In politics he is a Republican, and has twice run for office in Weakley County, Tennessee, one time for the State Assembly and another time for Congress. While defeated, his platform attracted great attention for its vigor and simplicity. He advocated teaching the first five books of the Bible in the public schools, believing that these embodied the origin of law, and that they would respect laws the reason for which was made clear; or repeal laws which were conflicting with wisdom and justice, but learn to do both in orderly manner. He also advocated other measures either national or local interest, showing fair spirit and just views, among which are pensioning Confederate as well as Federal veterans, equal suffrage, an amendment permitting the collateral heirs of ex-slaves to inherit their property, pension of ex-slaves, better stock laws, etc.

Up to this time (1920) Mr. Shadd has not married.

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## RICHARD HENRY SINGLETON

Among the largest and most attractive church buildings of the Negroes in Georgia, is that of the St. Phillips Monumental A. M. E. Church in Savannah, of which Rev. Richard Henry



RICHARD HENRY SINGLETON.

Singleton, D.D., was pastor, and with the development of which he has had much to do, though he has rendered important service in other locations as well, and also to the entire Georgia Conference, of which he has been chief secretary for a continuous period of twenty years, as well as to the denomination at large.

He was born on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, September 11, 1865, son of Richard and Celia (Kettles) Singleton. His father was a farmer, and his parents were both slaves to within a short time of Richard's birth. His paternal grandparents, Jack and Nancy Singleton, were also slaves. Beyond that his ancestry is not known.

Though born free, it was at a time of almost universal poverty in the South, resulting from the then recent war, and practically none of the Negroes had as yet accumulated any property. Young Singleton had in him, however, the making of a man, and set diligently to work to equip himself for a life of large usefulness. He first completed the public school course, and then secured a position with the family of Mr. Curtis, by which he managed to work his way through Giles' Academy, at Hilton Head, S. C. Later he took a course as a non-resident student of Turner Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., which he completed in 1901, and three years later, in 1904, received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Morris Brown College, of which the Turner Seminary is a department. Of course, his studies have been continued outside the schools, and he has become a man of broad and thorough education, particular attention having been given to theology, sociology, history and the sciences. Being during his school days a normal boy, with a boyish love for sports, he gave some attention to baseball and swimming, though between his work and studies he found little time for play. But among the factors which have contributed to the molding of his life, the Christian influence of his mother and his early home must not be overlooked; for the lessons impressed upon his childish mind there have gone with him through the years. He has travelled some through the East, the Middle West and the South.

It was in 1887 that he graduated from Giles' Academy. On November 28th of the next year, 1888, he was converted. The

next year he began church work as a class leader. As that was in February, it followed shortly after his conversion. He also served as steward, trustee, chorister, superintendent of the Sunday school, local preacher and local dean of St. Paul A. M. E. Church, at Brunswick, Ga., until December, 1892, where during that year he did his first ministerial work. In December he was regularly admitted into the Georgia Conference of his denomination, at Thomasville. He then organized and built Payne Chapel Church at Brunswick, where he remained as pastor for five years, by which time the membership had reached one hundred and ten. In 1897 he was sent to Waycross, and was also elected chief secretary of the Georgia Annual Conference, which position he held till December 1, 1917. Remaining at Waycross two years, he received one hundred and forty members into the church, built a substantial foundation under the church, and began a new parsonage. In December, 1899, he was sent to St. Phillip Monumental Church, Savannah, to complete the rebuilding of the church which was destroyed by the storm of 1896, and remained there five years, during which he rebuilt and furnished the church complete at a cost of \$21,705, leaving an indebtedness of only \$4,873.28; and during the same time the membership was increased from seventy-eight to four hundred sixty-seven. He was then made Presiding Elder by Bishop H. M. Turner, and appointed over the Valdosta District, and remained there four years, during which time every department of the work of the church in that district prospered, and nearly all reports were increased a hundred per cent. He was next appointed Presiding Elder of the West Savannah District by Bishop C. S. Smith. After one year there, he was relieved to take charge of the St. Phillip congregation and erect a new church edifice. That was in 1909. The work was completed under his ministry.

He erected on the corner of West Broad and Charles streets a modern church building and parsonage of brick and stone, completely furnished, at a cost of forty-five thousand dollars. In November, 1916, he was appointed to the Big Bethel Station, Atlanta. This is one of the largest and most important stations in the connection and the work is prospering under his

administration. He is a member of the trustees and executive board of Morris Brown University; trustee of Wilberforce University, at Wilberforce, O.; President of the Atlanta Branch of the N. A. A. C. P., President of Atlanta Ministers Union, Director United Commercial Exchange, The Great Southern Fire Insurance Co. and the United Investment Corporation, member of Atlanta Fair Price Committee, vice president Negro Branch, Committee on Church Co-operation; one of the organizers and founders of Central Park Normal and Industrial Institute, Savannah, Ga., member Executive Committee of the Urban League, and a member of the Financial Board of the A. M. E. Church, the headquarters of which are at Washington, D. C., from which all general funds of the church are disbursed. He has been elected to represent his Conference at five General Conferences: at Chicago, Ill., in 1904; at Norfolk, Va., in 1908; at Kansas City, Mo., in 1912; at Philadelphia, in 1916; at St. Louis, in 1920. In Norfolk, in 1908 he received fifty-three votes as a candidate for Bishop to West Africa, to which office W. H. Heard was elected.

This is a record which would be highly creditable to any man, and particularly so to one starting under disadvantages, and demonstrates beyond question that Dr. Singleton is a man of a high order of ability, consecration and force of character.

On April 18, 1889, he was married to Josephine Ryalls, daughter of Henry and Fannie Ryalls, of Darien, Ga.

They have no children.

He is a Republican in politics, and among the secret orders is affiliated with the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and American Woodmen. While rendering important service to the people of his race, he has also accumulated some property, and is reckoned among the substantial citizens of his race. When asked as to how in his opinion the best interests of his race in the state and nation might be promoted, he replied that they should pattern after the highest ideals of American life, and not after the vicious and criminal; that it should publish the sayings and doings of its friends more than those of its enemies, thereby showing appreciation of the friends they already have and encouraging others to become friends; that it should encourage business within itself, big

business as well as little business, thus by industry, economy and co-operation laying a foundation upon which may be erected the loftiest structures of civilization.

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## LUTHER ALEXANDER TOWNSLEY

Rev. Luther Alexander Townsley, one of the influential presiding elders of the A. M. E. Connection in Georgia, has wrought out a career and won success in the face of difficulties which would have discouraged a boy of less enterprising spirit.

He is a native of Talbot County, Georgia, where he was born soon after the war, on September 15th, 1868.

His parents were Reubin and Frances (Chapman) Townsley. Reubin Townsley was a carpenter by trade.

Our subject was their youngest child. The mother passed away when her baby was only nine months old, and when he was three years old, he was completely orphaned by the death of his father. After his father's death, he was given to Mr. Anderson Stroud, a blacksmith at Strouds, Ga.

Rev. Townsley recalls with gratitude Mr. Stroud's kindness, but his environment was otherwise such as to make the little boy lonely and miserable. In 1872 he entered the public school at Strouds which he attended for the next five years. In 1878 he went to Pine Grove Academy at Russellville, and the next three terms studied at Stroud's Academy.

In 1882 he completed his preparation for college at Antioch Academy.

On December 28th, of this year (1882) he was married to Miss Sarah A. Rooks, a daughter of Henry and Clara Rooks of Monroe County.

Under direction of Prof. C. B. Haygood and Prof. L. J. Stroud (both white), he studied bookkeeping and made such a record as to win the approval and a cash reward from Mr. Anderson Stroud, which greatly encouraged the young man.

In 1883 he moved to Barnesville to take charge of the dairy of Mr. William Parker. The following year he moved to At-





LUTHER ALEXANDER TOWNSLEY.

lanta and became one of the first negro telegraph messengers in that city. His removal to Atlanta gave him an opportunity to pursue, under private tutors, Latin, higher Mathematics and Philosophy. After three years in the City, he returned to the farm for two years.

It was while thus engaged that he was converted on September the 6th, 1888. He joined the A. M. E. Church and at once became active, having served his church in every capacity up to Presiding Elder. He moved from the farm to Griffin and was janitor of the public schools there for two years. Here the Supt., Prof. Bothwell Graham gave him private lessons and when he took the teachers examination, he made the highest mark and taught in the Griffin schools from 1892 to 1895.

Notwithstanding the foregoing activities, it is in the work of the ministry that Dr. Townsley has excelled. He joined the Conference at Monticello in 1891 under Bishop W. J. Gaines, was ordained deacon two years later and made an elder under Bishop A. Grant, at Atlanta in 1895.

His first appointment was to a mission near Griffin, which he served in connection with his teaching, at the same time he studied Greek under Dr. E. W. Lee. He also pastored at Double Cabin Bethlehem Church.

From this charge he went to Senoia, where the work was doubled and hundreds of new members were added. In a short time he was recognized as one of the progressive pastors of the Conference.

He made an enviable record at Thomaston and was sent from there to (Hhilo) Little Bethel, Atlanta, meeting with marked success here. He served the church at Covington three years, where a new house of worship was erected and the membership greatly increased. From Covington he was returned to Atlanta and consigned to St. Paul for two years from which he was promoted to the presiding eldership of the Griffin District and from that work he was assigned to the Atlanta District. In 1908 Bishop C. S. Smith appointed him to St. Phillip Monumental Church, Savannah. Five years in Savannah brought him new laurels. Eleven hundred and twenty-eight members were added to the Church and \$27,895.00 raised. His next pastorate was the Steward Station, Macon, which he served for

two years, after which he was again made presiding elder and assigned to the South Atlanta District, his present field.

His business training has made him popular as Conference Secretary and his business experience and judgment have enabled him to accumulate considerable property in Atlanta and Savannah. He is one of the promoters and secretary of the Great Southern Fire Insurance Co.

After entering the Ministry he continued his studies and took his Theological Course at Morris Brown University of which he is a permanent trustee and from which he received his D. D. degree.

He was also made a member of the General Conference Commission of 1916. He has been a delegate to four General Conferences. He is identified with the Masons, Pythians and Odd Fellows as well as other benevolent orders in all of which he holds high official positions.

The study of the life of this biography should be an inspiration to the struggling boy or girl who perchance may be left alone in this cold world.

He is now serving as president of the Atlanta A. M. E. Minister's Union for the second term. He is endowed with great executive ability, and a splendid manager of men. He is a life trustee of Central Park Normal and Industrial Institute at Savannah, Ga., and was the first treasurer of the institution. He is the trusted treasurer of the Atlanta A. M. E. Conference. He holds that all work is honorable, and labors with his hands, and is never idle.

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## LIMUS POWELL PINCKNEY

Although he has been fully identified with Georgia for a number of years, Rev. Limus Powell Pinckney is a native of South Carolina, having been born at Bordeaux, S. C., March 1, 1865. His father, Limus Pinckney, though a slave, was a carpenter, a farmer and a shoemaker by trade. His mother's name, before her marriage, was Martha Moragne.



LIMUS POWELL PINCKNEY.

Young Pinckney attended the public school at Bordeaux and later the Promised Land School at Verdrey. For his college course he went to Morehouse College where he took the regular literary course. After having finished that, he took the theological course, which led to the degree of D. D.

About the time he was twenty-one, he was converted and joined the Baptist Church. Almost immediately he felt called to the work of the ministry and was ordained in 1890.

Rev. Pinckney took up school work early in his career and made a fine record as a teacher. He taught for four years at Dublin and was for three years head of the High School at Brunswick. His first pastorate was near Dublin. Later his time was fully occupied and while in the school room during the week, pastored on Sunday, Shady Grove, Mt. Tilla, Holly Grove and Bay Spring churches. While at Brunswick he was the pastor of St. Paul's Baptist Church. After serving this church for three years, he went to Atlanta as Educational Secretary of his denomination in which capacity he worked for two years. This work took him well over the State, doing evangelistic and institute work.

He was then called to the pastorate of the church at Madison, where he remained for eleven years and had a fruitful ministry. He has pastored Springfield at Greensboro for a period of fifteen years. After having accepted a call to the Thankful Baptist Church of Augusta, he moved to that city in 1912. He has purchased a comfortable home on Taylor street and is making splendid progress with his work.

His place of leadership among his people will be recognized when it is mentioned that he is Moderator of the Shiloh Association, Auditor of the State Convention, Chairman of the Reformatory Board, a member of the Educational Board and President of the State Sunday School Convention.

In politics, Dr. Pinckney is a Republican and among the secret orders is identified with the Masons, Pythians and the Odd Fellows.

On January 18, 1895, he was married to Miss Janie Lord, a daughter of Crawford and Amy Lord of Dublin. They have eight children: Benjamin A., Aurelius D., Theo. W., Rachel F., Waldo U., Lord P., Martha C., and William F. Pinckney.

In addition to his residence at Augusta, Dr. Pinckney owns valuable farm property near Dublin and renting property at Madison.

He is a vigorous man in mind and body and believes that the permanent progress and prosperity of the race can be built on practical Christianity alone.

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## ROBERT ARCHER TRACY

Doctor Robert Archer Tracy, of Hawkinsville, is a native of Montserrat, British West Indies, where he was born September 25, 1878. His father, William Henry Tracy, was a merchant, and his mother's maiden name was Catherine Richards, the grandfather being a Wesleyan minister. On the paternal side his grandparents were Henry and Sarah Tracy. His grandfather was a landowner.

Dr. Tracy was entered in the public schools of St. Mary's and Kinsale when he was of school age; later studied the classics and languages under private tutors. In this way he received liberal education without difficulty, so far as the financial part of it was concerned; but later when he came to America, he found conditions so different from those to which he had been accustomed, that he was compelled to work to supply himself with the necessary funds to secure the medical training which he desired. He entered the medical department of Shaw University, at Raleigh, from which institution he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1908. Later he took lectures at McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

His taste for reading runs to the substantial things in the way of English classics, including the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, Shakespeare, Milton, and other authors of that class.

Coming to Georgia after the completion of his education, he located at Monticello and engaged in the general practice of medicine. He remained there until 1912, when he moved to Milledgeville, where he practiced four years and then moved to Hawkinsville.

Dr. Tracy has been twice married: first to Miss Nancy Ellen Teachey, of Wallace, N. C. This was on November 24, 1909.



ROBERT ARCHER TRACY AND WIFE.

One child, a daughter, Catherine Francina, was born to this union. Subsequent to the death of his first wife, Dr. Tracy was married a second time to Miss Josephine Bessie Stiles, of Mill-edgeville, November 27, 1913. Mrs. Tracy is a daughter of Nathan and Adeline Stiles and a niece of Bishop C. H. Phillips of Tennessee. She was educated at Atlanta University and was formerly a teacher at Helen B. Cobb Institute.

He is a member of the Episcopal church, and among the secret orders is identified with the Odd Fellows and Pythians. Looking back over his life, remembering the early death of his father, Dr. Tracy acknowledges with gratitude the influence upon his life for good of the Christian character of his mother, whose simple Christian life impressed him with a deep reverence for her, and imbued him with a sense of Christian duty and obligation which has become a part of his life.

His experience and observation enable him to make valuable suggestions as to how the best interests of the race in the state and nation may be promoted. He says: "The best interests of the Negro in this State and in the nation can be promoted by an exhibition of merely Human Justice on the part of the white people and true culture and education on the part of the sable brother. Prejudice, a perverse human sentiment born of the guardian's relationship, obtained between master and slave, and of the marked ethnic difference between two races existing under the same government and the same conditions of life can be eradicated. The remedy, however, lies in the domain of the strictly psychologic. It is the religion of Jesus Christ that must lift the human soul from the depths of weakness and intolerance, where the imperfections of the animal nature predominate, and plant it in an atmosphere of love and beauty and human brotherhood. The dominance and racial integrity of the Anglo-Saxon need not necessarily be menaced by conceding to a weaker brother the privileges and opportunities due to every man. There should be mutual harmony, respect and perseverance on both sides, each race endeavoring to develop the best elements constituting its peculiar type, while the strong should lead the weak upwards, towards the eternal goal of human perfection. Segregation to me is not a cherished idea. The Negro must not be banished



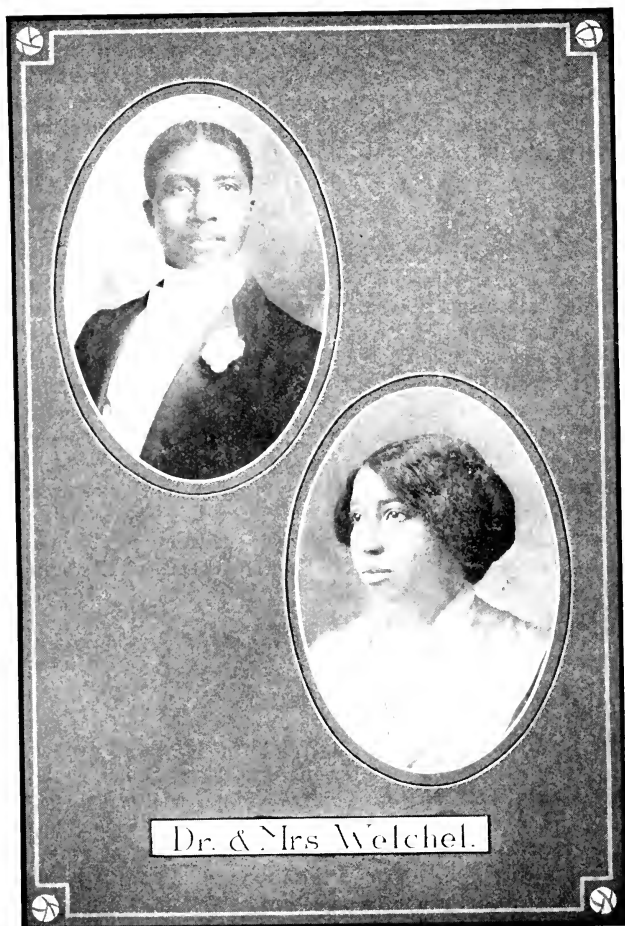
from the white man's civilization. Although there are individuals capable of leading, the race en masse is still in its swaddling clothes, and must develop its splendid inherent capabilities with the benevolent aid of the Caucasian who has for many centuries led the vanguard. Negro education is imperfect, and its system must undergo radical changes. Pope has well said "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and the truth of this saying is nowhere else more plainly evidenced than among our people. Men who aspire to lead in the church and in the liberal professions, ought to equip themselves with the erudition, culture and refinement compatible with their dignified and responsible positions. If there were more true culture and learning among the leaders of the race, there would be less childishness and clamor for cheap notoriety, and a more tangible result of deep study and reflection would be placed to the credit of the race. Social equality is mutually undesirable; yet the bridge of "deadly hate" can be spanned by a reconciliation born of Christian tolerance and forbearance and a union of all who love and labor in the service of a common humanity."

Dr. Tracy has attracted considerable attention as a writer of short stories. His novel "The Sword of Nemesis" has been well received and widely read.

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## ELBERT MITCHELL WELCHEL

Elbert Mitchell Welchel, D. D. S., is the only colored dentist at Gainesville. Though just turning into thirty, he has established a home, built up a good practice for a man of his age, and promises fair to become an influential man among his people. It speaks well for him that he has not found it necessary to go away from his home town to succeed. He is a native of Gainesville, where he was born on Feb. 6, 1887. His father, Marion Welchel, was a hard working, successful man, who was wise enough to give his children the best educational advantages. The father has passed away, but the children are making good through the opportunities which he gave them.



Dr. & Mrs Welchel.

ELBERT MITCHELL WELCHEL AND WIFE

Dr. Welchel's mother, before her marriage, was Malisia Martin. She is still living (1920). Her parents were Nelson and Chany Martin.

As a boy, young Welchel started to school out in the rural districts of Hall County. Later he entered the Gainesville High School and when ready for college matriculated at Clark University, but finished his college course and took his A. B. degree from Fiske University. He began his course at Clark with only sixty dollars and was able to maintain himself by work in the buildings and on the campus. Coming to Fiske with only eighty-five dollars, he found it necessary to follow the same plan there. He spent several vacations on dining cars and in the Pullman service. In this way he traveled extensively and added much practical experience to what he had learned in the schools.

In 1910 he entered Meharry for his course in dentistry, which he completed with the D. D. S. degree in 1914. He had only \$85.00 when he entered Meharry but as he had done in the other colleges he began work on the campus in order that he might meet the necessary expenses for his course. Notwithstanding the fact that he had to work while in college, he still found time to devote to college athletics, especially football. Returning to his home town in the summer of 1914, he opened an office and began the practice of his profession. His office equipment is first-class and he finds himself with a constantly growing practice.

Two years later, on June 15, 1916, he was married to Miss Julia Bell Young, a daughter of Ed and Julia Young, of Gainesville. They have one child, Julia Ernestine Welchel.

Dr. Welchel, though not active in politics, is a Republican. He is a member of the M. E. Church in which he is a steward, and belongs to the Pythians. He believes in the all round development of his people and contends that their permanent progress must rest alike on the proper training of hand, head and heart.

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## WILLIAM JAMES

Although barely in the prime of his life, Prof. William James has back of him a record of a quarter of a century of notable educational work. He was born four miles north of Bartow, in Washington County, on December 23, 1872. His father was a tenant farmer named Alfred James, and his mother's maiden name was Rainey Smith. His paternal grandparents were Jim and Jenny James, and his maternal grandmother was Mollie Smith.

While his parents were poor, hard working tenant farmers, unable to educate their children, they helped them, and taught them to help themselves. Such country schools as were available, young James attended, eager to learn all he could, and worked steadily on the farm. By the exercise of precisely the same energy, he later on attended Atlanta Baptist, now Morehouse, College, returning straightway to the home farm, where, although he realized that his life work must be teaching, he desired to gain practical experience and to show his parents his appreciation of their encouragement. Presently he began teaching in the county of his birth, remaining there two years, thence in Johnson County four years, then three years in other work, then five years at Adrian and from there to Statesboro in 1902, where he has since remained as principal of the Statesboro Industrial High School. When he first took up this work, the people of his race there owned nothing, but, centering around the institution over which he presides a prosperous settlement has grown up, and the school property is worth at least \$12,000. Besides, recognizing in time the value of the work he was doing, the white people locally and elsewhere have cordially come in with their support.

When he established the Statesboro High and Industrial School he began with three teachers and an enrollment of seventy-five. The school now employs a faculty of seven and the enrollment is near the three hundred mark. A commodious and substantial building was made possible through the generosity of Miss Emily Howland of the North. The building is named in her honor, Howland Hall.



WILLIAM JAMES.

Prof. James has traveled extensively over the United States and has been active in Republican politics, being delegate to the national conventions in 1912 and 1916.

He holds the responsible position of Grand Deputy in the G. U. O. O. F. Prof. James spends his vacations studying at Hampton or Tuskegee or in conducting locally a summer school. Bulloch and adjacent counties depend largely on his school for teachers. In his summer school work he has the co-operation of the General Education Board.

On May 17, 1898, Prof. James was married to Miss Julia Warthen, a daughter of Archie and Emma Warthen, of Washington County. She was and still is a teacher, and shares with her husband enthusiasm for their constructive work of education. They own a nice home in Statesboro and have six children, Warthen, Ruby, Serena, Eleanor, William and Hinton.

Professor James believes that the interests of his race can be best promoted by realizing that they are centered in the South, and not in the North or elsewhere. And by training them to make good farmers in the understanding that his is an agricultural race, primarily, and the best knowledge for the majority is knowledge of agriculture in this agricultural region. He also wants a better understanding between the two races.

Prof. James is a member of the A. M. E. Church in which he is a steward and superintendent of the Sunday School.

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## THOMAS JEFFERSON GOODALL

Georgia is indebted to Tennessee for Rev. Thomas Jefferson Goodall, pastor of the historic old First Baptist Church, of Savannah, where he is ably carrying on the work of a long line of distinguished pastors and preachers. He was born at Smithville, Tennessee, January 15, 1886. His father, Rev. Thomas Jefferson Goodall, for whom he was named, was a Methodist preacher, although his parents were Baptists. He passed to his reward while the son was still but a small boy,



THOMAS JEFFERSON GOODALL.

and he was thus deprived of the affection and guidance of his father during the formative years of his life. His paternal grandfather was George Goodall who was brought South from Virginia before Emancipation. Rev. Goodall's mother, who is still living (1919), was, before her marriage, Miss Margaret Alexander, a daughter of Timothy Alexander. She had a brother, Rev. P. A. Alexander, a Baptist minister, who reared the subject of this sketch after the death of his father. Though deprived of his father he thus had the advantage of being brought up in a Christian home. He attended the public schools of Tennessee and Roger Williams University, and is one of the well equipped young men of the denomination. He was converted in 1902 when sixteen years of age. Some idea of the confidence placed in him by the brotherhood may be gained from the fact that he was licensed to preach at seventeen years of age and ordained to the full work of the ministry at eighteen. His first pastorate was at Cedar Grove Baptist Church, which he served seven months and repaired the house of worship. He resigned to become associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of East Nashville where he remained for eighteen months when he accepted the call of the Fifth Ward Church of Clarksville. Here he paid off a mortgage of long standing and built up a run down congregation. The young man firmly established, in the confidence of the people and the brotherhood was called to the Berean Baptist Church of Jackson and entered upon a five years pastorate which was a fruitful one in every respect. A debt which had been standing for twenty-eight years was cleared up, the church remodeled and the congregation greatly strengthened. At this time the historic old First Church of Savannah was seeking for a pastor of constructive ability who combined the qualities of a popular preacher with those of a faithful pastor. They chose Rev. Goodall and he came to the work in 1915. In four years he has more than demonstrated his fitness for the place and is recognized as one of the real leaders of his denomination and of the race. He has one of the South's largest memberships and takes an active part in everything looking to the progress and development of his people. He is a trustee of Central City College, Moderator of Mt. Olive Baptist Association and a



member of the Benefit Board, for Georgia, of the National Baptist Convention. He devotes his whole time to the great church of which he is the leader. This includes not only the preaching at the church but is of such character as to make itself felt throughout the city. A separate history of the church has been printed which tells more in detail the character of the various phases of its work. Among the secret orders Rev. Goodall is identified with the Masons and the Pythians. His property interests are in Tennessee. He believes that the progress of his people depends upon practical Christianity and a symmetrical education. On October 19, 1909, he was married to Miss Violet C. White, of Memphis, Tenn. She is a daughter of John and Hannah White, and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher in the city schools.

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## NATHANIEL McPHERSON CLARKE

Rev. Nathaniel McPherson Clarke, S. T. B., the popular pastor of the Beth Eden Baptist Church, Savannah, is a man of rich and varied experience. He is a native of Jamaica, B. W. I., where he was born September 15, 1871. His father, Thomas S. Clarke, who is still living (1919), is a deacon in the Baptist Church. His mother, who before her marriage, was Miss Elizabeth Maria McPherson, is deceased.

Young Clarke laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of his native island and later attended Calabar College at Kingston. He became active in the work of the Baptist Church at an early age and had considerable experience both as a teacher and a local preacher in Jamaica before leaving for the States.

He landed at Boston in 1900 and pursued his studies through the Y. M. C. A. night school. Later he matriculated at Lincoln University from which he was graduated with the S. T. B. degree in 1906. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Twelfth Baptist Church of Boston, Mass., and accepted the call of the Calvary Baptist Church of Ithaca, N. Y.,



NATHANIEL MCPHERSON CLARKE.

which he served for four years and where he had a successful pastorate.

He preached as a special supply at Mt. Zion in Knoxville for a few months, and soon after leaving there accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Fernandina, Fla. He remained at Fernandina till the fall of 1912, when he was called to the important field at Savannah, where he has since pastored the Beth Eden Baptist Church. An indebtedness of five thousand dollars has been paid under his administration and the house of worship repaired. The congregation has been built up in both numbers and efficiency.

Rev. Clarke is a general reader and has surrounded himself with a well selected library. As he retains his British citizenship, he takes no active part in American politics. From his extensive observations and experience both North and South, he is of the opinion that the greatest need of the Negro race in America is education. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Berean Baptist Association and also of the Reformatory Board. Well equipped in body and mind, Rev. Clarke is rendering efficient service and is a leader of which both his denomination and his race may well be proud. The accompanying engraving represents him at the age of 47.

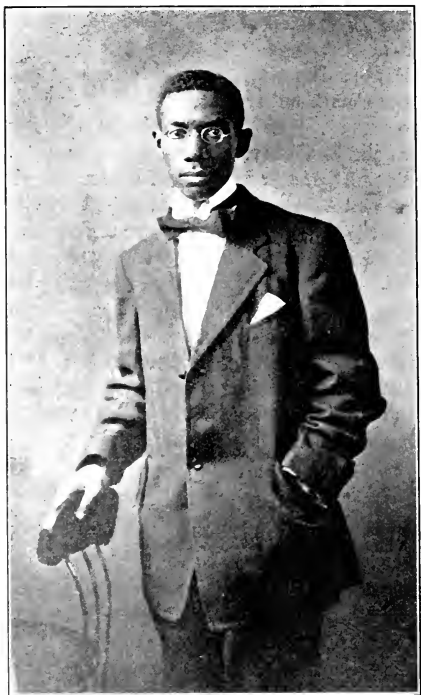
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## DANIEL THADDEUS ROBINSON

With the growth of intelligence and education among the colored people of the South, lines of work in which the Negro was practically unknown only a few years ago have been entered and new business concerns established, especially in the larger centers.

One of the enterprising young men of the race who has made for himself a place in the printing trade is Daniel Thaddeus Robinson, of Atlanta.

He is a native of the historic old city of Charleston, where he was born July 31, 1887. His father was Samuel Robinson. His mother, who, before her marriage, was Hannah Johnson, a daughter of Judith Johnson.



DANIEL THADDEUS ROBINSON.

Young Robinson attended school in Charleston as a boy. When ready for college, he matriculated at Fisk University from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1909. The pluck and energy of the boy were shown by the fact that although it was necessary for him to make his own way in school he refused to be discouraged and by helping in the printshop and work on dining cars earned the funds required to complete his course. His work on the dining car gave him a rare opportunity for travel to every nook and corner of our great country.

He never lost sight of the fact however that his was only the means to an end. He was saving his money and looking forward to a time when he could have a business of his own. In 1913 he located in Atlanta and for the first year worked in the local printshops. In 1914 he bought the concern at 164 Auburn Avenue, where he now conducts a prosperous and up-to-date printing establishment.

Mr. Robinson is an extensive reader. When in college he specialized on History and English literature, but now his reading is largely confined to the current newspapers and magazines.

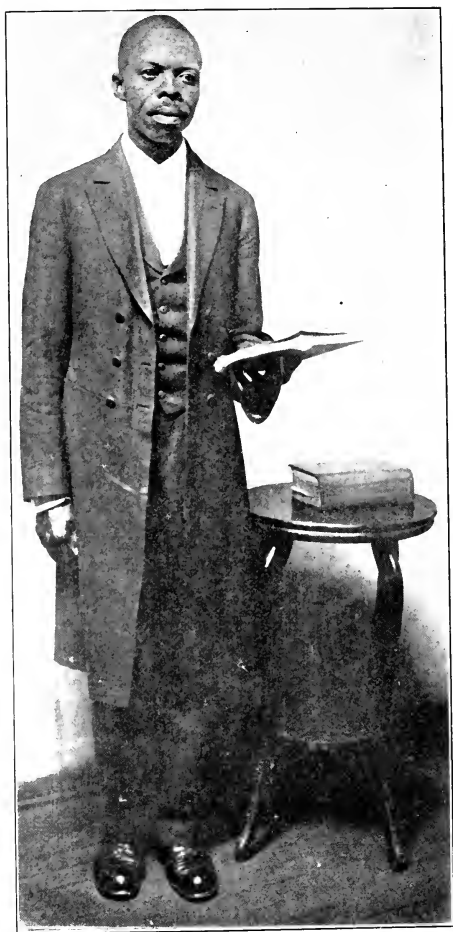
In politics he is nominally a Republican, though not active. He is a member of the Congregational church and among the secret orders is identified with the Masons, the Pythians and the Knights of Tabor.

He has had an unusual opportunity to observe his people both North and South, in the city and in the country and is of the opinion that all that is necessary to their progress is to make them feel safe where they are.

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## EDWARD D. FLORENCE

The man who is responsive to the divine leadership and who is willing to equip himself for his work, sees his field of usefulness and influence grow from year to year as he struggles upward, so that farmer boys born and reared in obscurity are



EDWARD D. FLORENCE.

to be found at the head of institutions and leaders among the people. Such in fact has been the experience of Rev. Edward D. Florence, now (1919), pastor of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, of Atlanta. He was born on a farm in Coweta County, May 11, 1876. His father, Aleck Florence, was also a minister of the Gospel, so the boy had the advantage of being brought up in a Christian home. His mother, who before her marriage was Miss Fronia Lowe, is still living. As a boy and youth he worked on the farm and attended the public schools. Thus he grew to manhood and on May 11, 1897, was married to Miss Fannie Stokes, of Coweta County. They have two children, Bessie May and Carrie Florence. In 1900 he came to Atlanta to live and has since made it his home. In 1907 he was converted and became a ctive in the work of the Baptist Church. Soon after his conversion he felt called to preach, but it was nearly two years later when he finally yielded to the call, and after being licensed and ordained by the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, entered upon the active work of the pastorate. His first call was to the Windsor Street Baptist Church which he served for two years. Since then he has served Bethel in Douglas County one year and Rising Star at Haralson one year. In the spring of 1915 he accepted the call of the Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Atlanta, which worships in what was formerly Temple Baptist church (white) and which is a substantial stone structure. He gives this work two Sundays a month and in addition pastors Philadelphia on the outskirts of the city and New Hope near Grantville in Coweta County, thus occupying his whole time.

Rev. Florence has not been active in politics nor does he affiliate with the secret orders, preferring to devote his energies to the work of the Kingdom. After entering upon the work of the ministry he took up the Theological Course at Morehouse College in order that he might the better equip himself for his work as a Gospel minister. This was done it will be observed at an age when men usually consider themselves too old for school. As he has observed conditions among his people in both country and city, Rev. Florence is of the opinion that all permanent progress among his people must be

built on Christian Education. His property interests are in Coweta County. He is president of the West Side Ministerial Union.

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## JAMES HENRY DOYLE

Modern insurance has brought to the front in American business circles a class of young men conspicuous for their intelligence, initiative, salesmanship and financial ability.

Among those who have already won for themselves a prominent place in insurance circles in Georgia must be mentioned James Henry Doyle, Superintendent for the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Co. of their Savannah District.

Mr. Doyle is a native of Madison, S. C., where he was born January 2, 1883. His parents were Benjamin Franklin Doyle, a farmer, and his wife, Mattie (Poole) Doyle. His mother was a daughter of Richard and Julia Poole.

Young Doyle grew up on the farm and helped in the support of the family. His parents were of limited means and could not afford the schooling he so much desired. It was a Christian home, however, and that is always an asset in the life of a child. Later he went to the Seneca Institute, where the whole course of study and conduct of the school was pervaded with a religious atmosphere.

In the fall of 1909, Mr. Doyle began active work in the insurance field as agent for the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Co. at Monroe, Ga. His work was satisfactory and he remained on that field for two and a half years. At the end of that time the company needed a strong aggressive man at Waycross, and he was transferred to that territory where he worked successfully for two and a half years. He was then promoted to special work on the Savannah District in which capacity he served till November 12, 1917. Though still a young man, such was the character of his work that when a vacancy occurred in the superintendency of the Savannah District it was recognized by the home office that he was the logical man for the place. He was accordingly given the appointment which he has





JAMES HENRY DOYLE.

filled with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his company

On May 15, 1918, Mr. Doyle was married to Miss Roberta James, a daughter of L. T. H. and Leo James, of Milledgeville. She was educated at Clarke University.

Mr. Doyle is a member of the Baptist Church and is identified with the Masons and the Savannah Home Association. He is of the opinion that the progress and development of his people would be promoted by better educational facilities and by a closer adherence to the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

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## DANIEL SIMMONS

Someone has defined an educated man as "one who is on to his job." Measured by such a standard Daniel Simmons is an educated man, although denied the opportunities of a college education. He has had the courage and the foresight to branch out into business for himself and the success which has attended his efforts proves that he made no mistake. Beginning as a poor boy on the farm and then losing both parents at an early age, he has nevertheless forged ahead till he is now recognized as one of the substantial business men of the city of Savannah. He is a native of South Carolina, having been born at Allendale, Barnwell County, S. C., October 22, 1875. His father, Handy Simmons, was a farmer. He passed away when the boy was only nine years old. His mother was, before her marriage, Clementine Bowers, and although she, too, passed to her reward before the boy was grown, he remembers with peculiar gratitude her beneficent influence on his life. Mr. Simmons' paternal grandparents were Sam and Hester Simmons. On the mother's side they were Thomas and Candice Bowers. On both sides of the family his grandparents were long lived.

Mr. Simmons went to school at Brunson, but frankly states that his most valuable training came from travel and from contact with others. He has been entirely across the conti-



DANIEL SIMMONS.

nent and has visited most of the large cities of the United States.

On August 2, 1897, he was married to Miss Hattie Eugenia Davis, a daughter of Rhett and Amanda Davis. Of the five children born to them two are living. They are Edward Julius and Herman Davis Simmons. Mrs. Simmons was also a native of South Carolina, but reared in Georgia.

When he was about seventeen years of age, having no money he walked to Savannah and worked at odd jobs such as sawing wood, etc. Later he became a telegraph messenger and then got into the mattress making business. In 1900 he was Census Enumerator. Wherever he went or whatever he did he kept his eyes open.

In 1906 he decided to go into business for himself and has already worked out a large measure of success. He conducts a modern mattress making plant on E. Bay street.

Mr. Simmons is a member of the Baptist Church and is superintendent of the Sunday School. He is also prominent in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies, being an Odd Fellow, Pythian and Mason, in all of which he holds or has held official position. In his reading he places the Bible first.

When asked for some suggestion about the progress of the race, he replied, "Give the youth at least an industrial education and every other educational advantage possible. Give the adult the ballot. Wipe out race discrimination such as jimcrowism and inequality before the courts, etc."

Mr. Simmons is an independent, resourceful man. He has not only succeeded himself but has pointed the way to success for others of his race.

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## PROCTOR WILSON WRENN

Rev. Proctor Wilson Wrenn, pastor (1919) of the Second Baptist Church of Savannah, Ga., came to this state from Mississippi, July 1st, 1917, though he is a native of the Lone Star State, having been born in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas,



PROCTOR WILSON WRENN.

near Fort Worth, January 15, 1866. His parents were Thos. L. and Mary E. (Clemonts) Wrenn.

Rev. Wrenn is a self made man. What is more he is a self made man who need not be ashamed of the job. He was denied the opportunities of an early education except the most meager start in the public school, he worked his way up until now one meeting Rev. Wrenn would take him to be a man of the schools and a man of books.

He has been twice married, his first wife, before her marriage, was Miss Catherine Richardson, of Cleburne, Texas. She bore him four children, three boys and one girl: Nevada, Roscoe C., Burley R., and Arthur L. Wrenn. Later she passed to her reward and subsequent to her death Rev. Wrenn was married to his present wife, who before her marriage, was Miss Maggie E. Doolittle, of Little Rock, Ark.

As a young man Rev. Wrenn learned the barber trade which he followed for awhile at Cleburne, and also at Dallas, Texas. He moved to Little Rock in 1891 and there continued in the same work. When he had reached a mature manhood and was about thirty-four years of age he was converted and joined the A. M. E. Church. Immediately he felt called to preach the Gospel and he at once changed the manner of his life and the details of his business to conform to enlightened conscience. He began also to study and prepare himself for his work. The first book he bought was a Bible and the next an unabridged dictionary. He is still a student. Two years after coming into the church he joined the Conference at Little Rock under Bishop Turner. His first appointment was a mission in East Little Rock and at once it was seen that he was a success as a preacher, and pastor. The next year he was transferred to Mississippi by Bishop Derrick, and given station work at Woodville, Wilkinson County, where he remained two years. From that point he went to Rolling Fork, where he built a parsonage. He was then sent to the important work at West Point, Miss., where he remained for two years and paid off a debt. From West Point he went to Coffeyville and from there to Water Valley.

About this time he was lead to examine the Baptist Doctrine as based on the Scripture and to his mind the evidence was

so overwhelming that he was forced to admit the scripturalness of the Baptist Doctrine. It was only a step from there to a definite decision to identify himself with the Baptist Church. He had been again appointed to the West Point station. He resigned and joined the Baptist Church and was baptised the 13th day of December, 1903. He was licensed and ordained after passing a very rigid examination, on the 21st day of the same month, and was soon in even greater demand as a Baptist preacher than he had been as a Methodist. His first call was to the Duck Hill Church which he served two years. About the same time he was called to the Winona Baptist Church which he served for about three and a half years. He resigned that work to accept the Mt. Horeb Baptist Church at Greenville, Miss., which he served for eight years and erected a splendid new brick church, valued at twenty thousand dollars, in which that congregation now worships. From there he went to Greenwood, Miss., for two and a half years. In 1917 he was called to the Second Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga., where the work of the church is already responding to his careful shepherding for first of all Rev. Wrenn is a pastor. He preaches good sermons but what is most important he lives good sermons on the streets and in the homes of his people.

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## HERBERT LEE COOPER

It is a long way from the little cotton farm in South Carolina where a poor but ambitious negro boy used to work to the comfortable surroundings and successful practice of medicine in a great city like Savannah. The story of the life of Dr. Herbert Lee Cooper tells how it was accomplished. He was born twenty miles in the country from Kingstree, S. C., Dec. 6, 1875. His father, Henry Cooper, was a farmer. He was a careful hard working man and Dr. Cooper recalls with tenderness and gratitude how his father taught him all he himself knew and then faithfully stood by him while he was struggling for further education. Henry Cooper was the son of Amos and Nellie Cooper. Dr. Cooper's mother was Elsie



HERBERT LEE COOPER AND CHILDREN.



Barr before her marriage. She was a daughter of Lisbon and Harriet Barr. Unfortunately for the boy, his mother passed away while he was still young.

Dr. Cooper was married in March, 1907, to Miss Ollie Rutherford, a daughter of Peter and Ellen Rutherford. She bore him three children, Elsie Lee, Herbert Lee, Jr., and Wendell Phillips Cooper. Subsequently the wife and mother passed away.

Dr. Cooper had a hard struggle getting an education. He refused to be discouraged, however, in the face of all his difficulties. He went to the country public school and then to night school taught by his brother. He would work in the day and attend school at night. Later he entered first year normal at Allen University. During the time he was at home, when other boys were taking their vacation, he would work hard on the farm and help complete the crop. When school opened in the fall he would return and his devoted father would gather up the crop and send his son the part coming to him. That was kept up till he was able to secure a teacher's license. Then he taught for a couple of terms. The young man was peculiar in one respect. He always preferred to work for himself and never hired himself to any man. He determined to study medicine and although he knew it meant years of study and hard work he matriculated at Meharry Medical College and in due time won his M. D. degree. All this time he kept up the farming arrangement with his father during the summer months.

In the winter of 1907, he began the practice at Hemingway, S. C. In 1911 he moved to Savannah where he has since resided and where he has built up a good general practice.

Dr. Cooper has not been active in politics nor is he identified with the secret orders. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church. His preferred reading is along the line of English literature.

Dr. Cooper believes that the home is the spring and center of our civilization and progress. He thinks that parental training should be firm and hold the boys and girls in the home till they are capable of assuming the responsibilities of manhood and womanhood.

## S. FENIMORE FRAZIER

When a boy who has native ability makes up his mind to do a thing it is interesting to study his career and see how he met and surmounted difficulties which seemed impossible to overcome. Dr. S. Fenimore Frazier, of Savannah, Georgia, dates his aspirations to be a physician back to the days of his boyhood when his mother encouraged him to be either a physician or a minister of the Gospel. That he chose wisely when he decided to study medicine is proven by the remarkable success which has already crowned his efforts.

He was born at Limerick in Liberty County, Oct. 22, 1888. His father, Plymouth Frazier, was a farmer, the son of Plymouth and Melissa Frazier. Dr. Frazier's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Rosa C. Dyer. She was a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Dyer.

Young Frazier worked with his father on the farm during his boyhood days and went to school at Dorchester Academy. He made an enviable record as a student and had the hearty encouragement of his teachers to go to college. They saw in him the making of a great man. When able to pass the examination and secure a teachers license he began teaching in Liberty County, and by this means earned money to pursue his course at college. He matriculated at Biddle University and helped to pay his way in college by doing hotel work in the city.

For his medical course he entered Meharry Medical College and won his M. D. degree in 1915. During his medical course his summer vacations were spent at work in Nashville. Prior to entering college he was assistant postmaster at his home postoffice for one year.

On completing his medical course he remained in Nashville until the fall of 1915, when he returned to Georgia and passed a very rigid examination of the State Board of Examiners. In 1916 he came to Savannah and began the practice of his chosen profession. He had no money and only such equipment as he had brought with him from college. A less courageous man would have no doubt become discouraged but Dr. Frazier



S. FENIMORE FRAZIER.

went bravely to work and has already established a very fine practice which enables him to maintain comfortable offices on East Gwinnett street.

Dr. Frazier is a Republican in politics but has not been active. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church in which he is an elder. He is also identified with the Pythians and Odd Fellows. He believes that the permanent progress of his people is a matter of proper education.

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## WILLIAM AUGUSTUS HARRIS

Whoever has had occasion to confer with the representatives of the different professions among the Negroes has been impressed with the intelligence of the medical fraternity. There is a reason. Most of them are college men. Then added to this is the four year medical course. Not only so but the colored doctor must build a practice in the face of white competition such as the colored minister and teacher do not have to meet. The mass of colored people especially in the South must go to colored churches if they go at all. The same is true of the schools, but the colored patient may go to the white doctor, in fact has long been accustomed to do so. The colored physician must therefore come to his work well prepared if he is to win recognition.

Dr. William Augustus Harris, of Savannah, is one of the colored physicians of Georgia who had the wisdom and foresight to properly equip himself for his work even though it required years of hard work. By study and extensive travel both at home and abroad, he comes to his work so well equipped that he has already been put at the head of the South Atlantic Medical Society as well as the Georgia State Association of Colored Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists.

He is a native of Morgan County, Ga., where he was born Dec. 17, 1877. He did his preparatory school work at the Georgia State Industrial College, Savannah. Later he matriculated at Lincoln University, winning his Bachelor's degree in 1900. He attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons for his



WILLIAM AUGUSTUS HARRIS.

medical course and won the M. D. degree in 1905. He did post graduate work at Dread Naught Hospital and Queen Charlotte's Lying In Hospital at London, completing his work there in 1911. It must be remembered that it was necessary for Dr. Harris to work his own way through school. He recalls with gratitude the happy and helpful influence on his life of his mother and his teachers, especially Rev. E. P. Johnson and Prof. D. C. Suggs.

Dr. Harris has traveled over every part of the United States and Canada on this side and England and France on the other.

His reading is varied and next after the literature of his profession consists of Shakespeare, books of history, travel and some fiction.

Returning from abroad he began the active practice at Greenville Junction, Me. In 1911 he located in Savannah and soon took his place at the head of the profession. As stated above he is president of both the South Atlantic and the State Medical Societies. He is on the staff of the Charity Hospital and is a first lieutenant in the M. R. C. U. S. A. (inactive) and was assistant medical examiner of the local draft board No. 2. He is also examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Co.

He is a member of the Baptist church and in politics is a Republican.

He has not only succeeded himself but has pointed the way for others who are willing to work and equip themselves for places of large usefulness.

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## ALBERT BRYSON SINGFIELD

Insurance work has developed a distinctive type of business men. The truly successful insurance man is aggressive, but courteous, he has all sorts of initiative but he is never meddlesome. When it comes to representing his own line he has push and energy and perseverance, but he is not a knocker. He works along constructive lines. These are the very qualities which have brought success to the subject of this biography.



*A. B. Singfield*





Albert Bryson Singfield, District Manager of the Savannah District and General Superintendent of the State of Georgia for the Pilgrims Health and Life Insurance Company, the oldest Negro company in the State.

The story of his life is not only a record of success but has in it also a lesson for every ambitious youth.

He is a native of the historic old county of Columbia, having been born near Harlem, March 15, 1876. His father, Samuel Singfield, was a farmer and a carpenter. His mother, before her marriage, was Clarissa Yarbrough. Samuel Singfield was the owner of a tract of land which inspired in the boy a strange sort of pride and a desire to own land himself. The boy worked on the farm until he was nearly grown and went to the public schools. He was denied the opportunity of a college education, but instead of allowing that to discourage him he has forged ahead and is what has been called for want of a better term, a self-made man. His mother was always ambitious for him and her constant admonition and prayers prompted him to steady and energetic action. When about seventeen years of age he went to Augusta where he worked in the railroad shops for nine years. He then went with the Pilgrims Health and Life Insurance Company as a local agent and early showed those qualities and that executive ability which have since led to his larger success. His promotion was rapid. From local agent he went to City Inspector and from that to State Inspector and is now Manager of one of the best Districts in the State and General Superintendent for the whole State of Georgia. He thinks quickly and acts promptly and with decision, hence he is a good leader of men.

While not a college man, Mr. Singfield is an extensive reader not only of current literature but of history and fiction and has accumulated a very creditable library. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, the Pythians and the Odd Fellows. He is president of the Savannah Negro Business League and also president of the State Business League of Georgia. In politics he is a Republican and is a member of the First Bryan Baptist Church in which he is a deacon, and President of the Baptist Young Peoples Union. In the State Baptist Young Peoples Union organization he is

President of the Savannah District. On November 28, 1894, Mr. Singfield was married to Miss Anna Wilson, a daughter of Jeff and Betty Wilson, of Columbia County. They have two children, Mary Bertha and Nellie Louise Singfield.

Mr. Singfield owns a nice home in Savannah and also has other property interests in Augusta and in Columbia County. He is a man of fine physique, hearty and affable in manner and numbers his friends by the hundreds all over Georgia.

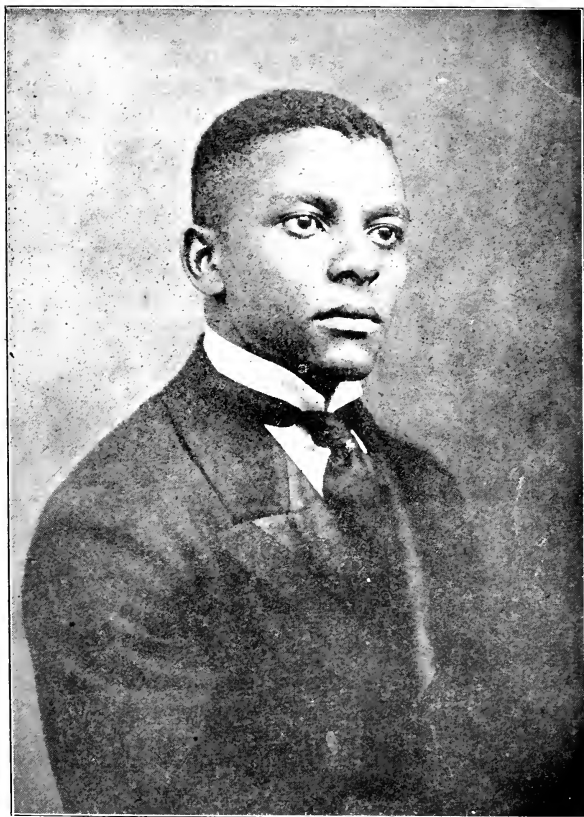
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## HENRY MORGAN COLLIER

Dr. Henry Morgan Collier, of Savannah, is a busy, successful young man who has not found it necessary to go away from his home in order to succeed. The fact that he has been able to build such a practice as he enjoys right among his own people with whom he was reared is a compliment to both his character and his ability as well.

He was born June 12, 1889. He is a son of Rev. Jno. B. Collier, a Baptist minister of Savannah. His mother, before her marriage to Rev. Collier, was Miss **Mary Jane Morgan**, a daughter of Rev. Henry Morgan.

On October 28, 1916, Dr. Collier was married to Miss Annie B. Gilliard, a daughter of America Gilliard. They have two children, Henry M., Jr., and Ruby Rosetta Collier. Young Collier attended the public schools as a boy. Later he took the Normal Course at the State College, but did his college work at Shaw University. When ready for his medical course he matriculated at Meharry College where he won his M. D. degree in 1913. His summer vacations were spent on steamer lines at the North and in the dining car service which enabled him to earn the necessary money for his course and at the same time gave him an opportunity to see a great deal of the country. In his Junior year at Meharry he passed the Tennessee Board and after his graduation practiced for a few months at Dixon, Tenn. In the winter of the same year he returned to Savannah and having passed the Georgia Board, began the practice of his profession in that city, where he has



HENRY MORGAN COLLIER.

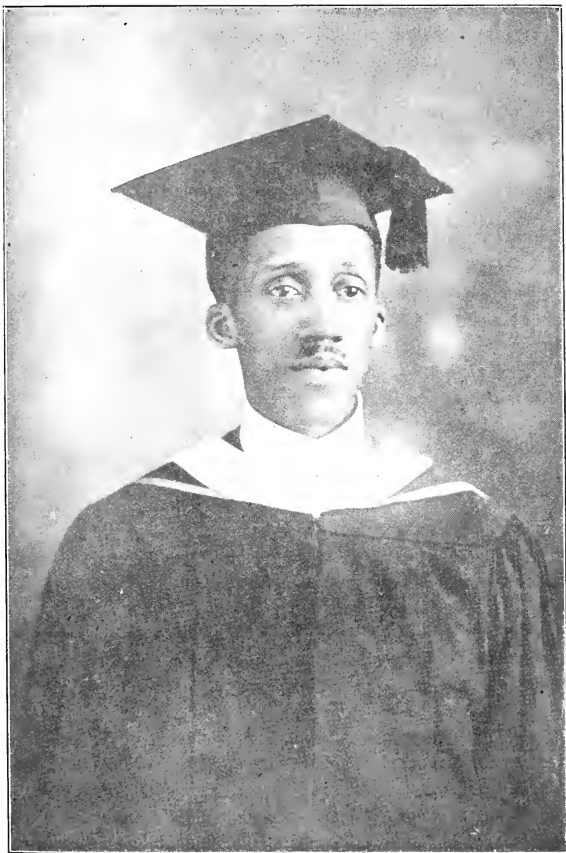
since resided. He has while doing a general practice, given special attention to diseases of women and children, and will no doubt in the days to come become a specialist in these two lines of practice. Dr. Collier is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Chatham County Executive Committee. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church in which he is a deacon. He belongs to the Masons, Elks and Pythians and is Secretary of the South Atlantic Medical Society. He is also under appointment as city physician and examiner for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. Dr. Collier owns a very attractive home on McDonough street. Dr. Collier's reading in addition to the medical magazines and newspapers consists mainly of biography and poetry which he greatly enjoys.

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## WALTER EDWARD TIBBS

Prof. Walter Edward Tibbs, Professor of Commercial Department and Registrar at the State Industrial College for Colored Youth, at Savannah, has shown in his struggles for an education that sort of initiative and perseverance which have characterized many of the foremost men of America from Lincoln down. Many a youth is discouraged and defeated by adversity while a few struggling up from obscurity through poverty, use the obstacles in their way as stepping stones as they mount to places of influence and leadership. Prof. Tibbs belongs to the latter class.

He is a native of Washington, D. C., where he was born July 26, 1885. His parents were Richard and Vinia (Mickens) Tibbs. Richard Tibbs was a quarter deckman on a Sound steamer. He passed away while the son was still young, leaving the widow and four children. Prof. Tibbs maternal grandfather was Ned Mickens "the village blacksmith" of Charlottesville, Va., where for a whole generation he plied his trade and was popular with both races. More than that he was loved by both races and his passing was noted in the press at the time. He was an active church man, being a deacon in the Baptist church.



WALTER EDWARD TIBBS.

Our subject laid the foundation of his education in Jersey City, beginning in the primary grades and going through the grammar grade. He gratefully remembers that his parents taught him to work and to save what he earned. This habit early instilled enabled him later to secure the education he so much desired, for during the latter eight years of his schooling it was necessary for him to earn every cent which went into his education. He says of this period. "I have gone more than forty-eight hours at a time without sleeping, into every province of Canada, from coast to coast and into thirty-two states of the United States and forgone even the dream of a summer vacation or any vacation, that I might get some sort of education." Of course, such a spirit won.

He attended the Commercial College of Howard University, graduating in 1910. This was followed by a course in the Teachers College, School of Liberal Arts at the same institution from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1914. At the same time he won the prize offered for excellence in political science.

In the fall of the same year he went to the State University of Louisville, Ky., as professor of political Economy, etc.

In 1915 he was called to the Commercial Department of the State College, Savannah.

While in college he gave only such attention to college athletics as was necessary to keep himself in good physical condition. He was a member of the Greek letter fraternity of his Alma Mater. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Baptist Church. His favorite reading consists of biography and poetry with special attention to the books of Negro writers and books about Negroes.

Prof. Tibbs has observed conditions in every part of the country and has very definite ideas as to how the best interests of the race are to be promoted. He says, "Lynching, disfranchising, segregation, the heaviest burdens the negro has to bear, can be lifted off of him by Federal legislation covering them, making their commission a crime against the United States."

On September 12, 1916, Prof. Tibbs was married to Miss Mary Magdalene Berry, a daughter of Butler and Mattie Berry, of Columbia. She was educated at Benedict College.

## HENRY PEARSON

The quaint little old town of Cokesbury in South Carolina, is now off the main lines of travel, but there was a time when it was a center of wealth, of culture and of education. While, of course, the colored people were denied a share in the wealth, it has been observed that even after the war they did absorb much from the atmosphere of their surroundings. It was here that Prof. Henry Pearson, now (1919) vice president and professor of English Language and Literature at the State Industrial College was born, soon after the war, on January 4, 1866. His parents, David and Frances Pearson, were both slaves prior to Emancipation.

Prof. Pearson laid the foundation of his education at Payne Institute, Cokesbury, where he completed the High School course in 1881. Even from an early age it was necessary for the boy to earn his own expenses which he did by work on the farm till such time as he was able to secure a teacher's license. He then began teaching in his home town and has not missed a year from the school room, in some capacity, since.

For his college work he matriculated at Claflin University from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1888. The same institution has since conferred on him the Masters Degree. In fact such was his record while at Claflin that he was made a tutor in the school before graduation and elected to a full professorship immediately on completing his course. He remained in that position four years, till 1892, when he resigned to accept the principalship of the Sumter, S. C., graded school where he taught for three years till 1895. In that year he was called to the State Industrial College for Colored Youth, near Savannah.

He has seen many of the young men who came to him in the earlier years grow up to manhood and fill places of usefulness and large service to the race. His work has given satisfaction to his trustees and with the years has come steady promotion. In 1917 he was made vice president of the institution. From time to time Prof. Pearson has done considerable

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HENRY PEARSON.



postgraduate work at Chautauquas and at Chicago University.

Prof. Pearson is more than a teacher in the school, he is a leader of the thought and activity of his people along various lines. This is shown by some of the positions he fills. For instance he is president of the Mechanics Bank of Savannah, a trustee of the Carnegie Public Library, Savannah, secretary of the Negro Protective Association, a member of the board of directors of the local branch of the Urban League, also a member of the board of directors of the Y. M. C. A. He is a member of the M. E. Church and in politics is a Republican. His reading covers a wide range of history, biography, English literature, with considerable attention to Greek and Roman literature, besides the current magazines through which he keeps abreast of present day matters. He is himself an author and has contributed a number of poems to the secular and religious press of both races, both north and south.

On October 13, 1890, Prof. Pearson was married to Miss Daisy Eugenia Goodlett, of Spartanburg, who was also a graduate of Claflin and herself an accomplished teacher.

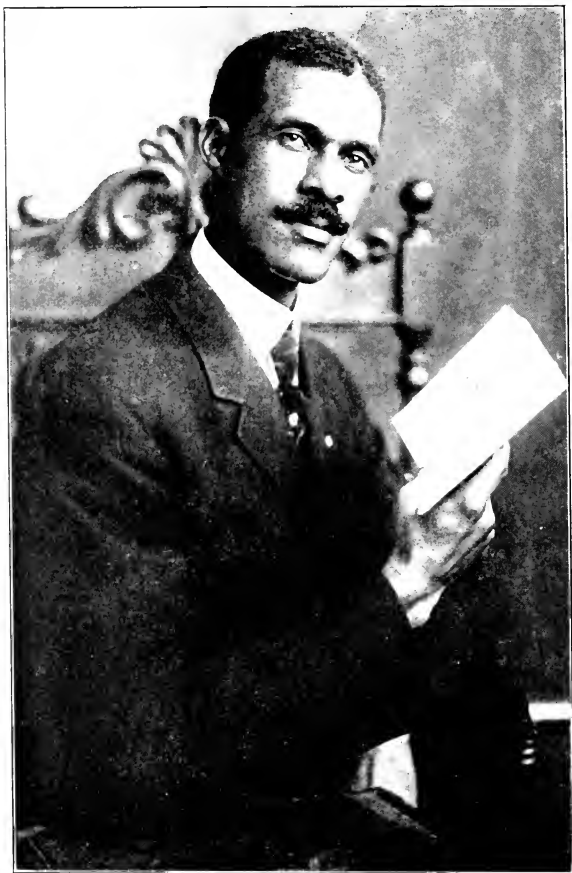
When asked how in his opinion the best interests of the race might be promoted Prof. Pearson replied, "By civic rights and justice, by industrial and commercial equality, by industrial, rational and moral education, by encouragement and courteous treatment. My race will meet the demands of citizens successfully and creditably under these conditions."

Such in outline is the story of one who born into the hard conditions immediately following the war, has demonstrated what can be done with freedom even under difficulties and in the face of obstacles almost innumerable.

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## ALBERT HERBERT DUNBAR

There is an aggregation of young men in Savannah doing business as the Chatham Mutual Life and Health Insurance Company whose accomplishments have opened the eyes of their competitors and been the source of encouragement to those who were backing them. At the head of the organization is



ALBERT HERBERT DUNBAR.

Albert Herbert Dunbar, a quiet man who gets things done because he came up from the ranks himself and because he is a man of real executive ability. In order to get to the beginning of his story it is necessary to go back to Barnwell County, in So. Carolina, where he was born September 8, 1873. His parents were Albert and Dianna (Hext) Dunbar. The boy grew up on the farm and laid the foundation for his education in the public schools. Later he went to the celebrated Haynes School in Augusta for two years. Returning home he went to Allendale, South Carolina, where he worked for about a year as wheelwright.

In 1890 he came to Savannah where he has since resided and where he has firmly established himself in the esteem of a wide circle of friends. His first work was on the wharf of what is now the Atlantic Coast Line. After four years there he went with the Central of Georgia where he remained for a dozen years. As the years came and went the young man's ambition developed until finally he was ready to leave the railroad and entered upon insurance work. This required more judgment, more initiative and more of all the qualities which go to the making of a successful business man, but at the same time it also offered greater reward and a brighter future.

He began with the Pilgrims Life and Health Insurance Company and made a good record as a local agent. In 1916 when the Chatham Mutual was organized it was seen that he was the logical man for the head of the new organization. The results have more than justified that choice. The Company succeeded from the very beginning and under the Presidency of Mr. Dunbar has made a record that has not been surpassed in the field of insurance. Beginning without business and as a local concern they have already built a local debit of more than \$1,200.00 a week and have extended the work to every part of the State. In 1908 Mr. Dunbar was married to Miss Eloise V. Jones, of Charleston, S. C. She bore him one child who died, and the mother also passed to her reward. On November 29, 1917, Mr. Dunbar was married a second time. His present wife was Miss Ada Scott, of Savannah, before her marriage. She was educated at Atlanta University and was an accomplished teacher. In politics Mr. Dunbar is a Repub-

lican. He is an active member of the Baptist Church in which he teaches a Sunday School class to the entire satisfaction of the officers of the school as well as the class itself. Among the secret orders he is a Mason. He is also identified with the various other organizations both civic and religious which have for their object the betterment of the race. Already Mr. Dunbar has accumulated considerable property and is one of the substantial business men of the city of Savannah.

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## OLIVER CROMWELL CLAYBORNE

Even on a casual meeting with Dr. Oliver Cromwell Clayborne, of Savannah, one is impressed with his versatility, his wide range of information and his independence of thought and action. Without a record of what he has done, one would readily guess that he is well equipped mentally and has traveled extensively.

He is a native of the neighboring state of Alabama, having been born at Birmingham, January 10, 1886. His father was Oliver Cromwell Clayborne, Sr., a business man. His mother's maiden name was Miss Mattie B. Broughton. Back of his parents the doctor's ancestry crosses the color line. Both his grandmothers were slaves. Young Clayborne's parents were ambitious for him and started him on the course which has brought success.

As a boy he attended the Birmingham public schools and later the Alabama A. and M. College. After that he went to the University of Illinois. All of which he was able to do without interruption as his father was in position to keep him in school. In this way he came up to his medical course at an early age and matriculated at Meharry Medical College where he won his M. D. degree in 1908.

A part of his vacations were spent in the Pullman service and the experience and extended knowledge of the country thus gained have in themselves been a valuable asset. He was active in college athletics and while at Meharry was captain of the football team two years and manager one year.



OLIVER CROMWELL CLAYBORNE.

On completion of his medical course he did what has been unusual for colored physicians. He went into the Public Health Service which took him to various parts of America and abroad. In this connection he was at New Orleans, San Francisco, the Canal Zone, the Philippines and the Orient where he had experience with yellow fever, bubonic plague and other epidemics. After four years he retired from the service and located in Savannah in 1912, where he has since resided and has attracted to himself all the practice he can handle. While doing a general practice he gives special attention to operative surgery.

He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the District Executive Committee. He belongs to the A. M. E. church and is identified with the Masons.

On October 5, 1910, he was married to Miss Bertha A. Wittington, of Mississippi. Mrs. Clayborne was educated at Jackson College.

Dr. Clayborne has prospered in Savannah. He is identified with the local bank and has considerable real estate holdings. He is of the opinion that the best interests of his race are to be promoted by simple justice. He sees no reason, as there is none in, why his dollar should not buy as much as any other man's dollar or why as a taxpayer he should be discriminated against as a citizen.

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## CRAWFORD WILFRED ERNEST DYER

Dr. Crawford W. E. Dyer, of Milledgeville, Ga., is a representative of a comparatively small number of negroes in the States who have come to us from the West Indies. Dr. Dyer is a native of the Port of Spain, Trinidad, where he was born, January 31, 1888. His parents were Joseph and Laura (Graves) Dyer. His father was a real estate man.

Young Dyer had the opportunities of the Government schools of Trinidad and remained to finish the high school and first year of the college course. He came to the States in the fall of 1907 in the steamship service. It is in this way that



CRAWFORD WILFRED ERNEST DYER.

he earned the money for his medical course. He entered Meharry College, Nashville, in 1911, and completed the course with the M. D. degree in 1915. In the summer of the same year he took the Georgia State examination and began the practice of his profession at Warrenton, September, 1915.

On June 8, 1915, he was married to Miss Sarah McCage, a daughter of Sallie McCage. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church and is identified with the Masons, but as he still retains his British citizenship, he has taken no part in American politics.

His preferred reading is along the line of standard classics. From his study of the race condition in the States, he has concluded that the greatest need of the race is industrial education.

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## CHARLES HAMILTON HOLLOWAY

A number of present day leaders in Georgia were either born in South Carolina or educated in her institutions. One of the efficient men of the Baptist denomination who has made his mark in the State is Rev. Charles Hamilton Holloway, of Washington, Moderator of the Third Shiloh Association. He was born in the historic old town of Abbeville, S. C., April 28, 1872, and resided there till he was fourteen years of age. His father, John Holloway, was a deacon in the Baptist Church. He was a son of Harry Holloway. The mother of our subject was Ellen Holloway who now (1919) lives in Augusta. Young Holloway grew up on the farm and attended the Abbeville County public schools. He was converted at the early age of twelve. He is still mindful of the good influences of his early home life. Almost immediately after his conversion he felt called to preach, and began to shape his life for that work. Very early in life he was impressed with the weakness of the leaders of the race and his determination to fit himself for effective work in this field has perhaps been the most potent factor in shaping his life. After the public schools he went to Brewer Normal at Greenwood, where he completed the Normal Course. In order to do this he put in all his spare





CHARLES HAMILTON HOLLOWAY.

time at work, clerking in store on Saturdays and frequently at night. He early imposed a strain on his eyes from which he suffered during these years. From Brewer he passed to Benedict College but could not complete the course on account of his eyes. At sixteen years of age he was licensed to preach by the Holly Springs Baptist Church and four years later was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Little River Association. He began work as a teacher at Holly Springs where he taught for two years. He then came to Georgia and conducted the school at Danburg for five years. After that he taught at Gibson Grove for two years and Washington for a similar period.

It is as a minister that he is best known. His work in Middle Georgia has been of high quality. His first regular pastorate was Gibson Grove, where he preached four years and erected a new house of worship. Since that he has been one of the busy men of the denomination and has at times had the oversight of at least half a dozen churches. He preached at Tignall four years and built a church, and at Youngs Chapel four years, and built a new house of worship. Twenty years ago he organized the Tabernacle Church at Washington, which he still pastors. Among other churches he has served are New Salem at Warrenton, eight years, Rock Branch, fifteen years, Mt. Pleasant, Greene County, seven years. He is now serving the Tabernacle, Washington, Lionville at Rayle, which he has pastored fourteen years, and Payne at Mesena, where he has been pastor for four years. He has had a fruitful ministry, free from divisions and quarrelling and has had the hearty and cordial co-operation of the people wherever he has gone.

Notwithstanding his affliction which frequently detained him from his work his people have been loyal and have supported him liberally. His popularity may be judged from the fact that he was made Moderator of his association. He is an Odd Fellow and a Trustee of Shiloh Academy. For fifteen years he has been Vice-Pres. of the State Convention. In Oct., 1893, he was married to Miss Cary Cohen a capable teacher of Abbeville, S. C. They had five children, James, accidentally killed, Florine (Mrs. Cleveland) Estella, Charlie and Frank Holloway.

Rev. Holloway believes that progress depends upon moral development and safe clean, trained leaders.

His first wife passed away in 1908, and on January 5, 1910, he was married to Mrs. Carrie Pope Norwood, of Washington, Ga. Mrs. Holloway is not only a model housewife, but enters heartily into the work of her husband. They have two children, Annie B. and Sarah Holloway.

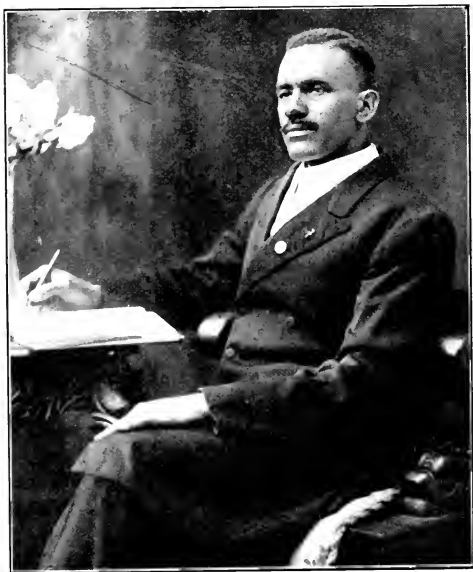
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## JAMES HENRY McFARLIN

Rev. James Henry McFarlin is one of the substantial men of the A. M. E. Connection in Georgia. He was born in Upson County, Dec. 11, 1867. His parents were Frank and Amanda (Barrons) McFarlin. The father passed away leaving the widowed mother and a large family of children. They lived on the farm and years of hard work intervened before James Henry could give himself fully to the work to which he felt called. He was converted after reaching young manhood and joined the A. M. E. Church. From that time forward he shaped his life toward the active work of the ministry.

On December 28, 1891, he was married to Miss Margaret Dawson, a daughter of Maria Dawson. Margaret, however, was reared by her grandmother, Caroline Dawson. Rev. and Mrs. McFarlin have eight living children. They are Elnora A., Amanda S., James C., Maud Emmie, Lula E., Robert A., William C., and Julia R. McFarlin. They lost their oldest son, T. Grant McFarlin, in 1917. He was a promising young man of twenty-four and was in college when his health failed.

Mr. McFarlin's early education was limited to the public schools of his native county. Later he attended night school and after entering the ministry went to Morris Brown as long as he was in reach of that institution. In fact he has continued to be a student through all the years of his hard work and struggle and as a result is a well informed and intelligent man. He has been helped by his books on theology and by books of sermons. He regards the Popular and Critical Bible Encyclopedia very highly.



JAMES HENRY McFARLIN.

In 1902 he was licensed to preach and joined the Conference the following year. This was in Atlanta under Bishop Turner. His first pastorate was Concord, which he served one year. He was then sent to his home church, St. Paul, which he served one year. Since then he has served the Zebulon Circuit two years, Fayetteville three years, Hampton Circuit five years, Thomaston Circuit two years and in 1916 was sent to Palmetto. Church houses were built at Holly Grove on the Fayetteville Circuit and at Cleveland Chapel in Henry County. Others were repaired or remodelled.

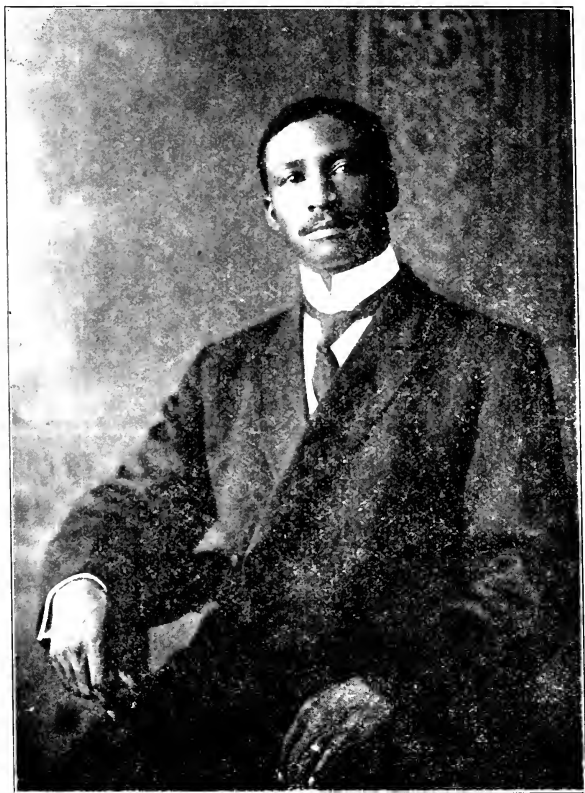
Rev. McFarlin is a Mason and is State Grand Lecturer of the Union Benevolent Aid Society, an account of which appears elsewhere in this volume. He has never been able to get entirely away from the farm and still farms in a small way. Next after the fundamental things of religion, he puts industrial training and economy as primary needs among his people. He owns property in Savannah.

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## WILLIAM LEVI CASH

Rev. William Levi Cash, A. B. B. D., pastor of the First Congregational Church of Savannah, is not only the most prominent man of his church in South Georgia, but is also prominent in the official life of the denomination. He is a native of the state of South Carolina, having been born in the historic old town of Cowpens, October 11, 1872. His father, Rev. Calvin Cash, a Baptist clergyman, struggling with ill health and the rearing of five orphaned children, gave the boy every encouragement possible under the circumstances. It was a great advantage to the boy that his early training though lacking much of the culture of the schools, was Christian training.

Rev. Cash's mother was, before her marriage, Eliza Hatchet. She passed away when the subject of this biography was only ten years of age. She was a daughter of Maria Hatchet. His grandparents on the other side were John and Eliza Harris. On April 16, 1913, Rev. Cash was married to Miss Clifford



WILLIAM LEVI CASH.

Sidoria Brown, a daughter of Sydo and Lydia Brown. They have three children, Winfred E., William L., Jr., and Gladys L. Cash. Mrs. Cash is a graduate of Atlanta University and was before her marriage a teacher in Savannah.

As a boy young Cash attended the Spartanburg County schools and later the Presbyterian School at Spartanburg, South Carolina. When ready for college he matriculated at Fisk University, Nashville, where he won his A. B. degree in 1902. From Fisk he went to Oberlin Theological Seminary and won his B. D. degree in 1905.

Having been convinced of the necessity of adequate preparation for his life work he very wisely held himself to the task through years of hard work. As his father was not in position to help him financially the young man was under the necessity of making his own way. When he was able to secure teachers license he began teaching and spent several vacations while at Fisk in that work. It was while at Fisk that he formally identified himself with the Congregational Church. He joined the church at Nashville and was soon made a deacon.

At Fisk and later at Oberlin he was popular as a student. He had many interesting experiences while at Oberlin. His earnestness of purpose and ability as a speaker soon brought him to the attention of the student body and of the faculty, and no matter when or where he was called upon whether locally or in some great convention he sought to act and speak in such a way as to reflect credit on those whom he represented. He was soon in demand and on one occasion a congregation whose pastor brought the address to the attention of Mr. Carnegie in such a way which secured to old soldiers and the students of Oberlin a gift of fifteen thousand dollars. The president of the college presented him with a scholarship. At another time he went as a delegate to Rochester, N. Y., to represent his school at a meeting of International Y. M. C. A. workers among seminaries. For the last two years that he was at Oberlin he was supply pastor of the Union Congregational Church at Painesville, Ohio. He was ordained in 1905, and the same year entered upon his work as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Savannah. He has continued to serve this church until the present time (1920).

On coming to Savannah he went actively to work. The membership then numbered 180. It has been built up to about 350. The house of worship has been renovated and all indebtedness paid and the work put on a self supporting basis.

Rev. Cash soon came to take a prominent part in the work of the denomination in Georgia and the South. He was Scribe of the General Convention of Georgia from 1907 to 1909; Moderator of the Convention from 1909 to 1911. In 1911 he was made Treasurer of the Convention which position he has since held. In 1913 he was a delegate to the National Council of Congregational Churches sitting at Kansas City, Mo. He is member of the Savannah branch of the National League of Urban Conditions Among Negroes and a trustee of the Old Folks Home Association.

Dr. Cash is a clear thinker and a forceful speaker as well as a careful and attentive pastor as the success of his work in Savannah plainly shows.

One who knows him well and who always speaks conservatively says that "He enjoys the confidence and esteem not only of his members, but of the entire community." Rev. Cash is branching out into Social Service Work and establishing Sunday Schools and other services in destitute places in the city.

When asked how, in his opinion the best interests of the race are to be promoted, he replied, "By education, both industrial higher; religion; industry; thrift; the full right of suffrage and a square deal on the part of the white people especially in the South."

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON WOODSON

A successful pastorate calls for the exercise of various qualities. First of all is the pulpit work. The successful preacher must not only hold the membership of his church through loyalty to the church, but he must, by his message and by his personality win others, especially the young people. Then too he must have executive ability and be capable of so organizing





GEORGE WASHINGTON WOODSON.

his forces as to get the best results. The modern church also requires skillful financing and that phase calls for ability along financial lines. Among the efficient men of the Baptist denomination in the State who has done all the things mentioned above and more, is Rev. George Washington Woodson, of Atlanta.

He is a native of DeKalb County, where he was born, June 4, 1873. His father, Gus Woodson, of Stone Mountain, is still living (1919) and was for years a quarryman. He was a son of Peggy Woodson. Rev. Woodson's mother is Sylvia Woodson. Her parents were Shady and Emily Liles.

When he came of school age young Woodson attended the local public schools. Between terms he worked in the quarry. Just as he was merging into manhood at eighteen years of age he made the great decision and soon after coming into the church felt called to preach the Gospel. He was licensed by the Stone Mountain Baptist Church in May, 1897, and ordained to the full work of the ministry later in the same year. Realizing the need of better preparation for the important service he had taken up he entered Morehouse College where he took the Theological Course.

His first pastorate was the Macedonia Baptist Church, Gwinnett County, which he served three years and repaired the building. He pastored the church at Fairburn for two years and served for seven and a half years Enon Church in Campbell Co., where a new house of worship was erected.

He preached at Little Divine in Fayette County one year and served the Poplar Springs Church in DeKalb County for more than eight years. This church was rebuilt under his pastorate. He now pastors Mount Olive in Henry County, where he has preached for fifteen years and built, Bethlehem Covington eleven years ago and rebuilt the church, Conyers six years where a building is under way and Zion Grove in Henry County, ten years, where a new church has also been erected.

Rev. Woodson is active and prominent in the denominational gatherings. He is Vice-President and a member of the Executive Board of the Atlanta Association and a member of the Executive Board of the Yellow River Association. He is also on the State Convention Board and is a regular attendant

at the State and National Baptist Conventions. He belongs to the Masons, the Pythians, the Odd Fellows and the Good Samaritans.

Looking back over his career, he says that Dr. E. P. Johnson has been to him a great help and inspiration. On January 11, 1894, he was married to Miss Bertha Brown, a daughter of Toney and Amanda Brown, of Stone Mountain. Of the seven children born to them, five are living. They are Lula B. (Mrs. Sims), Mamie L. (Mrs. Jackson), George W., Jr., Annie and Nellie May Woodson. He owns a comfortable home in Atlanta and other property at Stone Mountain.

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## GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH

Dr. George William Smith, one of the successful colored physicians and surgeons of Savannah, is a native of Washington County, having been born at what is now Davisboro, on September 9, 1874. His parents were George and Lizzie Smith. They lived on the farm and it was here that the boy grew up and attended the public schools. For his Academic and Collegiate work he went to Atlanta Baptist (now Morehouse) College. As it was necessary for him to make his own way in school, he began teaching when he could secure teachers license and spent his vacations in that way. His summer teaching was in various parts of the State. Having decided to study medicine, he matriculated at Leonard College, Raleigh, North Carolina, where he won his M. D. degree in 1903. After going to Leonard his vacations were spent at the North in hotel and steamboat work. After completing his course he located at Brunswick where he practiced for a period of four years. From Brunswick he moved to Savannah in 1907 where he has since resided and where he has built up a practice which keeps him steadily engaged.

On June 7, 1908, Dr. Smith was married to Miss Pearl Thompson, of Cuthbert, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Thompson. They own a comfortable home in Savannah.

From his observations of conditions of life both in the city and in the country, Dr. Smith believes that the greatest need of his people is industrial education.

He is a busy man and has comparatively little time for reading apart from his professional reading, after keeping up with the current news.

He is a member of the A. M. E. Church and belongs to the American Woodmen, and the Pythians. He is also identified with the South Atlantic Medical Society and is local medical examiner for the Atlanta Mutual Life Insurance Company.

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## ANDREW McCAULAY JONES

Dr. Andrew McCaulay Jones, a popular young physician and surgeon, was a registered pharmacist at twenty-two and a practicing physician and surgeon before he was thirty. When it is recalled that after leaving the public schools it was necessary for him to make his own way in school, it will be seen that he has shown both energy and courage as a youth as well as exceptional mental capacity. Another thing worthy of mention is the fact that he has not found it necessary to leave his home town in order to succeed, but is steadily building a good practice right in the midst of those with whom he was reared and who best know his character and ability. Dr. Jones was born in Athens, May 1, 1888. His parents were Robert and Susan Jones. His maternal grandparents were Christopher and Mary Jane Harris. When he came of school age he attended the public schools through the grades and finished at the Athens High and Industrial School. He was an apt student and made a very creditable record even as a boy. From Athens he passed to Walden University where he completed the course in Pharmacy in 1910. From 1910-1912, he was pharmacist at the Gate City Drug Store, Atlanta, Ga. Having decided to study medicine he matriculated at Meharry Medical College in 1912, and won his M. D. degree in 1916. His former studies coupled with two years of practical experience made him an admirable man for the Pharmaceutical



ANDREW McCAULAY JONES.

Department. So on his return to Nashville for his Medical Course he taught pharmacy while pursuing his studies and with what he was able to do, during vacations, was thus able to finance himself. For awhile he returned to Athens and worked during the summer. One vacation was spent at Owensboro, Ky., as assistant pharmacist. While on his medical course he got into railroad work which gave him the opportunity for considerable travel.

After completing his course he returned to Athens and has already firmly established himself in that thriving little city.

Dr. Jones is a member of the Baptist Church, and belongs to the Masons and the Pythians. He is also identified with the State Medical Association, and is examiner for several of the insurance companies and lodges.

On January 3, 1919, Dr. Jones was married to Miss Dorothy O. Bennett, of Nashville, Tenn. She was educated at Roger Williams University.

Dr. Jones is of the opinion that the real progress of the race is in the last analysis, the right sort of education.

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## JOHN WILLIAM JAMERSON

It is a far cry from the little orphan boy of Henry County, Virginia, to the prosperous professional man of Savannah, Ga., but years of hard work and close application have brought their reward.

Dr. John William Jamerson, a leading dentist of Savannah, was born at Ridgeway, Virginia, October 15, 1874. His father, John Jamerson, was a farmer and Elizabeth (Burgess) Jamerson was his mother.

His father died when the boy was only four years of age, and his mother passed away a couple of years later. Prior to her death she had placed the boy in a white family where he remained for eleven years. This was in Patrick County. When grown to young manhood he became ambitious for an education and after talking the matter over with whom he lived, went to Martinsville. His first employment was with the



JOHN WILLIAM JAMERSON.

County Clerk, and when he started to school, which was a mission school conducted in the Grace Presbyterian church, it was necessary for him to start in the first grade, notwithstanding the fact that he was eighteen years of age. He knew what he wanted, however, and being of serious purpose, his progress was rapid. He remained in school for a period of three years and supported himself by work in the boarding house and in a local tobacco factory. When ready for college he matriculated at Biddle University where he continued to make his own way at whatever offered in the way of work.

He made a good record at Biddle and won his A. B. degree in 1900. Such in fact were his enterprise and economy that the institution was owing him \$18.00 when he graduated.

Now well equipped so far as his literary education was concerned, but still without money he determined to take a course in dentistry and decided on Meharry College as the place to pursue this course. Accordingly he went to Nashville and on the first day after his arrival secured work at a boarding house which took care of his living expenses. He was able, by working at hotels during his vacations, to provide for his tuition. In this way he completed his course and won his D. D. S. degree in 1905. In the spring of the same year he located in Savannah where he has since resided and built up a splendid practice. His dental parlors are in the Wage Earners Bank Building and are attractive and well equipped.

On September 8, 1909, Dr. Jamerson was married to Miss Aline Belcher, of Augusta. They have four children, John W., Jr., Mayaline, Juanita, and Dorothy Jamerson.

Dr. Jamerson belongs to the Presbyterian Church and in politics is a Republican. He is identified with the Masonic order and is treasurer of his local lodge.

He has been active in Red Cross and other war work and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association for the advancement of Colored People, he is also a Director of the Wage Earners Bank.

Dr. Jamerson has prospered and keeps in touch with the various movements for the betterment of his people. He believes there should be more confidence and closer co-opera-



tion among the colored people and that more value should be put on integrity than on money.

Dr. Jamerson started his practice in 1905, without a dollar except what he borrowed but at this writing he is entirely out of debt and owns his own home valued at \$3,500.00. He has an equity in several pieces of real estate besides owning his own home.

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## JAMES ALLISON LINDSAY

The life of a man like Rev. James Allison Lindsay now (1919) stationed at Allen Temple, Atlanta, is a real asset to the race. A boy struggling up through difficulties from poverty and obscurity to a place of prominence and leadership has the enduring satisfaction which comes from deserved success. What is more, his life and example inspire and help many a young life along the way. A study of the life of Dr. Lindsay is all the more interesting because it corresponds very nearly with the generation of freedom enjoyed by the race and represents in a striking way what has been accomplished since Emancipation. If men would but measure the race by men of his type rather than by the vicious element it would be better for all concerned. Dr. Lindsay is a native of the sister State of South Carolina, having been born in Union County, soon after the war, on September 10, 1866, but has been in Georgia the major part of his life. His father, Rev. Ellison J. Lindsay, was also a minister of the Gospel, so our subject had the advantage of being reared in a Christian home. His mother who, before her marriage, was Miss Lucy Dogan, was a daughter of Nathan and Katie Dogan, who were farmers.

Young Lindsay attended the Union County public schools as a boy. He was converted in September, 1877, and came into the work of the church at an early age. He soon after felt called to the work of the ministry and was licensed in 1886. He determined to secure a college education, and, although under the necessity of working his own way through school, he went to Clark University and later did his Theological work



JAMES ALLISON LINDSAY.

at Gammon Theological Seminary, where he graduated with honor. He soon developed powers as a thinker and speaker which have made him one of the popular preachers of the A. M. E. Connection. He also wields a facile pen and is recognized as one of the most versatile writers of his denomination. He is the author of two pamphlets, "To Whom Shall I Go," and "Why I Am African Methodist." He was ordained and joined the Conference in 1888, under Bishop W. J. Gaines, at Dalton, Ga. His first appointment was to Woodbury, Ga. He was successful from the beginning and rose rapidly to the biggest stations and best districts in African Methodism. Wherever he has gone he has kept in touch with the educational life of his people and has been in demand as a lecturer at such institutions as Shorter College, Morris Brown University, Turner College, Georgia State College and others. Something of his standing in the denomination may be gathered from the fact that for twenty-four years he has been a delegate member to the General Conference and was Recording Secretary of the Board of Missions, New York City, for twelve years. It is as a preacher that he is best known. In Georgia he preached at Woodbury, Jonesboro, Monticello and Griffin. He was presiding elder over the Marietta District four years and the Macon District four years. He served the St. Phillips Station, Savannah, and the Augusta Station as well as the Birmingham, Ala., Station, as pastor. It was at St. Philips Station, Savannah, where his ability as pastor and financier stood forth with great prominence. He was appointed to Avery Chapel Station, Memphis, Tenn., seven times in annual succession, breaking all records of service as pastor at that point. He is now serving the Allen Temple Station, Atlanta, to which church his own Bishop and many of the leading educators of Atlanta belong. He always leaves his appointments in good shape. He is a hard worker and a man of simple faith. He not only believes things. He does things as well. He has traveled well over the United States and has had the opportunity of observing conditions. He is of the opinion that, "the conservative white man and the conservative colored man should seek to know each other and to co-operate along lines which represent the general good of all." On November

5, 1891, Dr. Lindsay was married to Miss Pearl H. Clade, a daughter of Clark and Addie Slade. They have four children, Frances A. (Mrs. Kidd), Hallie Q., Arnett Grant, and James A. Lindsay, Jr., all graduates from reputable colleges.

These have all been given excellent educational opportunities which they have been ready to improve.

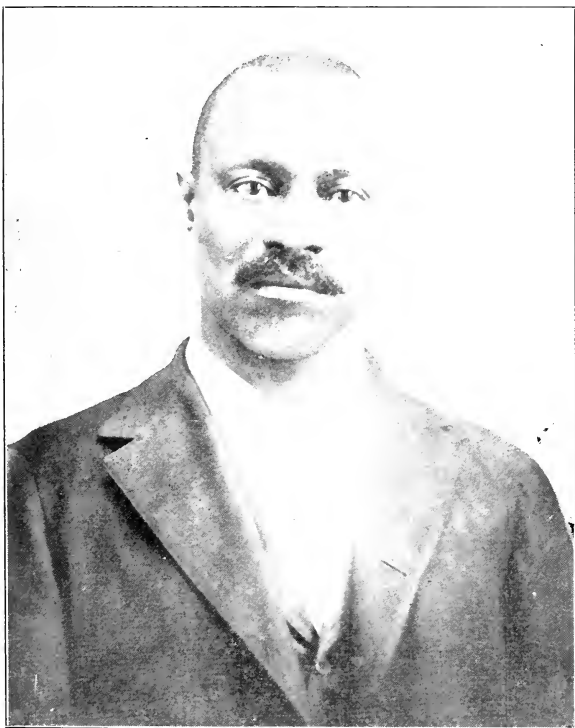
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## NEPTON BEMBRY

Rev. Nepton Bembry now (1920) stationed at St. Phillips Monumental Church, Savannah, is one of the most popular and successful ministers of the A. M. E. Connection in South Georgia. Since entering upon the active work of the ministry he has worked his way up steadily from a mission to some of the very best district and station appointments in the gift of the Conference. He is a South Georgia man and all his ministry has been spent in this part of the State. His ministry has been characterized by the growth and development of the congregations he has served and by the improvement and the building of houses of worship.

He was born in Pulaski County, October 25, 1865. His father was Chas. Bembry, a farmer. His people had been brought from Virginia to Georgia before Emancipation. Rev. Bembry's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Mary Lancaster. She was a daughter of Donalson and Martha Burnham, the difference in name being accounted for by a change of ownership.

From early boyhood young Bembry was religiously inclined. His conversion occurred at the early age of eleven, and by the time he was twelve he felt definitely called to preach, though it was some years later before he was licensed. In the meantime he was active in the work of the local church and held every office in the church. He went to school at Hawkinsville. In 1886 he was licensed and joined the Conference at Dawson under Bishop Gaines in 1890. His first appointment was the Irwinville Mission which he served for four years. Here he made the remarkable record of building three



NEPTON BEMBRY.

churches on his first appointment, the first of which was constructed six weeks after he entered upon the work. He then went to the Irwin County Circuit for four years, where he built one church and a parsonage. His next appointment was the Scotland Mission, one year. He served the Abbeville Circuit four years, built the best church in the county and remodeled another. He then went to the growing field at Fitzgerald, where he remained for five years and built four new churches. From Fitzgerald he went to Quitman Station for two years and built the brick church there. He was then sent to Gaines Chapel, Savannah, where he entirely remodeled the church without missing a service. After three years on that work he was promoted to the West Savannah District over which he presided for two years when he was sent to the Hawkinsville District for three and a half years. At the end of that time he was appointed to the Mother Church of the A. M. E. Connection in Georgia, the St. Phillips Monumental of Savannah. Rev. Bemby has had a fruitful ministry and has to date, brought into the church 5,360 new members.

Though denied a college education, he is by no means an uneducated man. Apart from the Bible his favorite reading is History, Theology and Psychology. He has attended three general conferences and has assisted in the election of eleven Bishops. He is a prominent figure in the Annual Conferences and is always on important committees. He is a Trustee of Morris Brown College and Central Park Normal. He belongs to the Masons, but has not been active in politics. He believes the larger interests of his race lie in the direction of the farm. His property interests are at Fitzgerald.

Rev. Bemby has been married twice. On January 14, 1886, he was married to Miss Mary June Meriwether, who bore him four children. They are Magdalene (Mrs. Evans), Florence, Rayfield and Campbell Bemby. The mother of these children passed away and subsequent to her death Rev. Bemby was married to Miss Annie P. Bell, of Eastman, on January 5, 1916. They have one son, Nepton Bemby, Jr.

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## SILAS XAVIER FLOYD

Rev. Silas Xavier Floyd, A. B., A. M., D. D., of Augusta, is a versatile man full of energy and enthusiasm. He has done splendid work in several lines of endeavor, including the ministry, teaching, lecturing and literary work. Dr. Floyd was born in Augusta, October 2, 1869. His parents were David and Sarah Jane Floyd. Both had been slaves before Emancipation. When he came of school age, young Floyd attended the public school and later the Ware High School of Augusta. Years later, as principal of Gwinnett Public School, he was to become the most prominent figure in the public school system where he laid the foundation of his own education. He was an apt student and at an early age aspired to a college education. The way was not easy. In fact when he entered Atlanta University he had only twenty dollars. Later he began teaching during his summer vacations and by dint of hard work and economy, and following the trade of printing while in school, completed the course and won his bachelors degree in 1891. Three years later the same institution conferred on him the degree of A. M. Dr. Floyd's first school was in Jones County, where he taught for two summers. The next was in Forsyth County. After that he worked in Boston one year and returned South. In 1891 he began teaching in Augusta and has since been identified with the educational system of that city. He has made for himself a reputation as an educator which is a credit to the race and has brought him numerous offers from other places.

Dr. Floyd is also prominent in the religious life and work of the race. He was converted and joined the Baptist church at the early age of twelve. In 1896 he was licensed to preach by the Tabernacle Baptist Church, and later ordained to the full work of the ministry. During the year of 1899 he was pastor of Tabernacle Church. All his life he has been active in church work and has been a leader in Y. M. C. A. and Sunday School work. In 1903 Morris Brown University, though a Methodist institution, conferred on him the degree of D. D.

It is as a writer and an author that Dr. Floyd is most widely known. He began writing even as a school boy and is the



SILAS XAVIER FLOYD.



author of several books, including a Life of Dr. C. T. Walker, Gospel of Service and Other Sermons and Floyd's Flowers. No less than twenty thousand of the latter have been sold. Many of his contributions have been published in the leading American Magazines such as Lippincott's, World's Work, the N. Y. Independent, and the Youths Companion. He has conducted departments in various Negro papers and frequently contributes articles to the local dailies as well as to the denominational papers of the race. He has an attractive style which easily runs to verse, though when occasion demands he can write with a directness and forcefulness which leaves nothing to be desired. Since 1915, Dr. Floyd has been the Secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools—an organization made up of all the colored and white teachers of this country engaged in the uplift of the Negro race. In 1918 this Association established a quarterly magazine called the National Note-Book, and Dr. Floyd was made its editor.

On May 6, 1900, Dr. Floyd was married to Mrs. Ella James, a daughter of Samuel and Nora Drayton of Gloversville, S. C. They own an attractive home on Twelfth Street, Augusta. In politics Dr. Floyd is a Republican and is a member of the Richmond County and State Executive Committees. Dr. Floyd has not only won for himself a measure of success which makes life worth while, but is a worthy example of what a poor boy of energy and capacity can do, not only for himself but in service for others, provided he is not afraid to work.

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## MELVIN HUDSON NICHOLS

When one thinks of the great insurance companies, both industrial and old line, it is well to consider that their success has been made possible by the quiet, steady, patient work of the local agents who are the gathering links between the men who organize and manage and the policy holders who furnish the money. Of course, it frequently happens that these same local agents lift themselves to executive places.

This is the story of one of those successful men who is now assistant superintendent of the Savannah District for the N. C. Mutual and who has the biggest collectable debit of any insurance man of his race in Savannah and the second largest of his company.

Melvin Hudson Nichols is a native of North Carolina, having been born at Durham, Dec. 12, 1885. His father, Bolden Nichols, a butcher by trade, is still living (1919). His mother before her marriage was Miss Serena Webb. She passed away when the boy was only nine years of age. He went to the Durham Graded School but was denied a college education. At an early age he went to work as a cook and butler.

On June 5, 1907, he was married to Miss Janie Cain, of Durham. They have two children, Melvin, Jr., and Chas. Frederick Nichols. Soon after his marriage Mr. Nichols decided to take up insurance work and the success he has attained shows that he made a wise choice. He began in Durham as local agent for the N. C. Mutual. From Durham he went to Raleigh for a short while and from there to Henderson and back to Durham. By this time he was well acquainted with the work and was sent to High Point where he remained for nearly a year and a half. After that he worked in Winston-Salem for about six months. On June 2, 1911, he landed in Savannah with no previous knowledge of the city. He at once took hold however and soon made for himself an enviable record. He is energetic and faithful and has ahead of him the promise of a bright future.

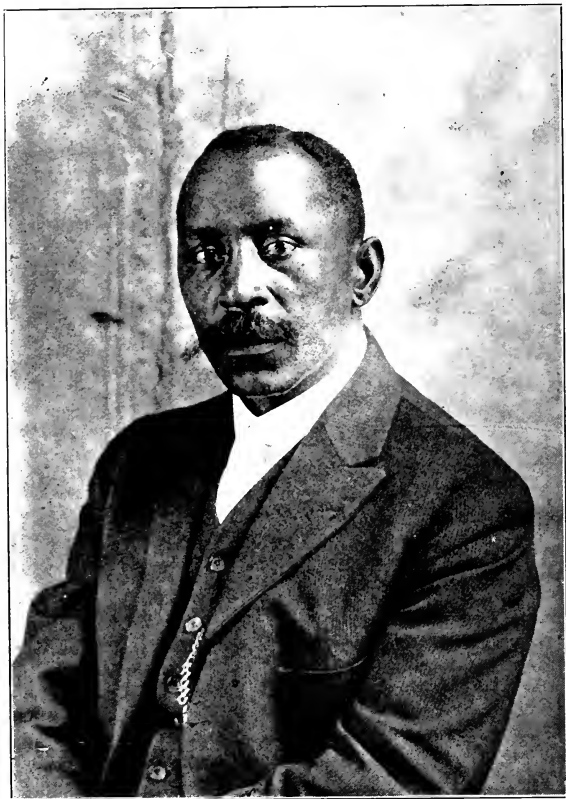
Mr. Nichols has traveled considerably in the South and East. His reading is largely along the line of the current news. He is a Pythian and in his local lodge is Master of Finance. He is an active member of the Baptist Church. As he has observed the interests and activities of his people, he is of the opinion that they need to cultivate a spirit of co-operation. Mr. Nichols owns a comfortable home in Savannah.

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# GEORGE WASHINGTON HILL

The Walker Baptist Institute of Augusta stands as a monument to a few Godly men—some still living, others gone to their reward—who years ago saw the importance not only of education, but of Christian education. The biographies of the men and women who as preachers and teachers have gone forth to lead the people, would make an interesting book in itself. The institution is indebted not only to the pioneers who founded it, but in no small measure to the long line of principals and teachers who have built their lives into the school. One of these men is the present principal (1919), Prof. George Washington Hill. He has brought the school to its highest efficiency and to its largest enrollment. Not only so, but under his administration the school has come into smoother waters financially and is now more nearly free of debt than it has been for years. This has been accomplished in the face of increased expenses and in the midst of war activities and numerous other drives and campaigns.

Prof. Hill was born at Monroe on June 27, 1866. About six months later the family moved to Covington. His father, Edward Hill, was a farmer. His mother, Nancy Hill, was a daughter of Jacob and Charity Croley. Young Hill grew up on the Newton County farm and attended the local school. When ready for college he went to Atlanta Baptist (now Morehouse College). It would take considerable space to recount his struggles from the time he entered that institution till the completion of his course. He graduated from the Academic Department in 1888, Classical in 1892, and received the A. M. degree in 1918. Let it be said, however, that the difficulties in his way did not discourage him. Soon after entering Morehouse he was able to secure a teachers license and began his career as an educator. The money thus earned enabled him to continue his schooling. He has now been in the school room for twenty-seven years. His first school was in Bartow County. The next year he taught in Newton County, and after one year there taught for six years in McDuffie County. By the time he had finished school his reputation as a successful teach-



GEORGE WASHINGTON HILL.

er was established. After his graduation he went to Washington where he remained for nine years and built a school house. From Washington he went to Madison for six years and from there to Sparta for eight years. Wherever he has gone the school work has prospered, while the best of relationship has existed between not only him and his patrons but between him and his white neighbors as well. In 1915 he was placed at the head of Walker Baptist Institute. The position called for a man of experience, ability and vision. The secondary denominational schools is and have been a problem with both races and all denominations. Most such schools lead a precarious existence. Too often there is a burden of debt. When Prof. Hill came to Walker Baptist Institute the man and the opportunity were fairly met and today the institution is making a record hitherto unequalled. The leaders, both of the ministry and the laity in that section are solidly back of the school and back of Prof. Hill.

Prof. Hill has been married twice. His first marriage was on January 10, 1894, to Miss Hattie M. White, of Thomson, Ga. She was of the class of 1890, Spelman Seminary. After eight years she passed away. On September 24, 1907, he was married to Miss Leila May Woodson, of Augusta. Mrs. Hill was educated at Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C. Prof. Hill belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Household of Ruth.

His principal property interests are at Washington, Ga.

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## ALLEN LESTER SAMPSON

All across South Georgia Rev. Allen Lester Sampson is well and favorably known as a foreeful and effective minister of the Gospel, who gets things done on his appointments. He takes time to think a thing through and then makes definite plans which he carries out with earnestness and enthusiasm. He has not been active in politics since entering the ministry nor does he find much time for secret order work, though he is a member of the Odd Fellows. With singleness of purpose he devotes himself to his ministry and that is the secret of his



ALLEN LESTER SAMPSON.

success. While not seeking primarily to make money, he has made investments in Brooks, Ware and Chatham Counties. He has done one other thing, he has observed his people closely and believes that their greatest single need is Christian education. He was born at Quitman, Ga., March 16, 1867. His father, Robin Sampson was a farmer and laborer. He was a son of Aaron Sampson. Rev. Sampson's mother, before her marriage, was Mollie Washington, a daughter of George and Martha Washington, who came from Richmond, Va., during the days of slavery. Rev. Sampson has been married twice. On May 6, 1886, he was joined to Miss Lula Hightower, of Brooks County. Of the seven children born to them the following survive: Willow M. (Mrs. Everett), Maud (Mrs. Manning), Hazel (Mrs. Williams), Irene (Mrs. Bowen), Julia and A. L. Sampson, Jr. On January 26, 1916, Mrs. Sampson passed away and on December 6, 1916, Rev. Sampson was married to Miss Rosa E. Howard, of Waycross.

As a boy young Sampson went to school at Quitman and was employed as a driver by Dr. E. A. Jelks. While thus employed he began the study of medicine with a view to becoming a physician. When he was about sixteen years of age he came into the church and before he was twenty felt definitely called to the work of the ministry. This did not quite fit into his personal plans, so he went to Florida for awhile, then back to Georgia and into Florida again. Now when a man has spent two seasons in Florida and still feels called to preach he then may be certain of the Divine leadership and it is useless for him to kick against the pricks. Accordingly the young man surrendered and applied for license to preach. He worked for awhile in Savannah as a blacksmith, but in 1902 joined the Conference at Eastman under Bishop Turner and was appointed to the Savannah Circuit, where he remained for two years. He built and seated a new church and ceiled another. He was ordained an elder at Quitman in 1905 by Bishop Turner. His next appointment was the St. Matthews Circuit where he built a church at a cost of \$2,500.00. After three years on that circuit he was sent to Ocilla Station where he remained for five years and erected a house of worship at a cost of \$3,500.00 all of which was paid during his administra-

tion except about one hundred dollars. From Ocilla he went to Gaines Chapel Station at Wayercross, which he acceptably served for one year and seven months. In the midst of his second year he was appointed to the Presiding Eldership of the West Savannah District to fill out an unexpired term of Dr. T. N. M. Smith, and at the next Conference was re-appointed to the same work and continued in it for a period of three years. At the end of the time he was given the St. James Station at Savannah where his work has been marked by the usual progress and success that has always attended his ministry.

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## GEORGE WASHINGTON JONES

Rev. George Washington Jones, Moderator of the Rosemont Baptist Association, is a man whose beneficent influence has been felt throughout Columbia County and the neighboring territory. He now resides at Augusta. He was born near Appling, in Columbia County, on June 4, 1854. It will thus be seen that he was nearly eleven years of age at the close of the war and had not, of course, been permitted to go to school prior to that time. After Emancipation he went to the local rural schools during the short terms they ran each year. His mother Eliza Lamkin, is still living at a ripe old age. She was a daughter of Nancy Dent.

On January 25, 1894, Rev. Jones was married to Miss Ida Burton. Of the four children born to them, two are living. They are Alzora and Florence Jones.

In his work as a minister, Rev. Jones has served only a few churches as his pastorates have been unusually long. He was a grown man, when in 1875 he joined the Baptist church. It was nearly two years later before he yielded himself to the promptings of the spirit and consecrated his life to the work of the ministry. He was baptised by Rev. John Hogan, a white minister whose wise counsel through the years was always helpful. He was ordained by the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in 1882 and accepted the call of same which he has since serv-





GEORGE WASHINGTON JONES.

ed. A new house of worship has been erected and the congregation which numbers about three hundred and fifty are devoted to their pastor. He has preached at Lamkin Grove for thirty-two years. Here, too, a new house of worship has been built and the church strengthened in every way.

In 1886 he was called to Friendship and has since served that congregation without a break. Altogether he has baptised hundreds of people and is one of the most popular men of the denomination in Columbia County. As a young man he farmed. He has never taken any active part in politics though there have been times when he might have done so with profit financially. He belongs to the Masons. He has observed conditions throughout the whole period of the Negro's freedom and is of the opinion that if given a square deal and equality before the law, his progress will be rapid and steady.

Several years ago Rev. Jones was elected Moderator of the Rosemont Baptist Association, a position which he has continued to hold. Prior to this he was identified with the Ebenezer Association and was for a number of years Secretary of the Sunday School Convention. He has also been identified with the Reformatory Board and the Executive Board of the State Convention.

In his work as a minister he has married over three hundred couples and baptized more than eight hundred new members into the church.

He has property both in Augusta and in Columbia County.

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## DUNCAN PRINGLE

In the modern business world men rise to places of responsibility and leadership because in the subordinate places they showed executive ability and the qualities which bring success. More especially is this true in the insurance business. The men who today are local agents, are tomorrow managers and executives.

This is well illustrated in the work of Mr. Duncan Pringle, Secretary and Manager of the Chatham Mutual of Savannah,



DUNCAN PRINGLE.

Ga. He is a native of Kershaw County, S. C., where he first saw the light on December 6, 1872.

His parents were London and Elizabeth (Dennis) Pringle. His maternal grandparents were Abram and Winnie Dennis. Very early in his life the family moved from Kershaw County to Sumter County, where the boy was reared. It was here that he went to school and secured what education he has. He worked on the farm until he was eighteen years of age, after which he was engaged in public work. In 1895 he moved to Savannah, where he has since resided. Always active and enterprising, he went into the grocery business and continued in that line of work for nearly ten years. Closing out his mercantile interests he took up insurance work, as a collector, which he followed for a period of four years. Later he was identified with a local transfer company. When the Chatham Mutual was organized in 1916 he was one of the original organizers; and it was seen that his wide acquaintance in the city and his varied experience as a business man fitted him for the position of Secretary and Manager, which place he has since held. The success of his company shows that the stockholders made no mistake in electing him to his present position.

Mr. Pringle is a member of the Congregational Church. He belongs to the Masons and has held various offices in his local lodge and is a prominent figure in the Grand Lodge.

In politics he is a Republican, though he has been too busy to take an active part in political life. He owns a nice home in Savannah, where his principal investments have been made. He is a progressive man and keeps in touch with those organizations having for their object the betterment of the race.

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## HORRY GAMMON PUGHSLEY

Prof. Horry Gammon Pughsley, of Bainbridge, Ga., is one of a family of intelligent and successful young men of the State. He was born at Swainsboro on October 3, 1880. His father, Henry B. Pughsley, was a farmer and contractor. His mother was Lucy (Coleman) Pughsley. Both parents are living (1919).



HORRY GAMMON PUGHSLEY.

Prof. Pughsley's education was obtained in the Swainsboro City School, Georgia State Industrial College and Morris Brown University. In attending the Swainsboro school, the main difficulty he encountered was the shortness of the term, which lasted only four or five months in the year, though there was also lacking the modern facilities for teaching. Often also, the demands upon him for work around home necessitated his missing one or two days in the week, which made it more difficult to keep up with his classes. After entering the Georgia State Industrial College and Morris Brown University, he could remain only part of the term, as his parents were not able to send him constantly. During the time that he missed, however, he managed to continue his studies under the direction of the best white or colored teachers he could secure, and so kept up with his classes. Finally during the last two years in college, he himself, paid for his board, clothing and all other expenses. In order to do this, he taught night school at the Y. M. C. A. in Atlanta, and gave private instruction in Latin and Mathematics in the city. He won his A. B. degree at Morris Brown in 1906. Since leaving college, he has continued to read much, giving preference to works on philosophy and speeches of master eloquence. He has also gained no little by observation, having traveled extensively in America. His work has consisted of teaching and insurance, in both of which he has been quite successful. He began work as a teacher at his old home town of Swainsboro as early as 1896 and later taught at Wadley and Whigham. He began his insurance work as representative of the well known Atlanta Mutual Association at Bainbridge in 1909. He is now Superintendent of the Bainbridge District with a force of agents under him. On August 31, 1916, Prof. Pughsley was married to Miss Vivian Sheffield, of Bainbridge, Ga. She was educated at Morris Brown University and was, before her marriage, a teacher.

Prof. Pughsley is a member of the A. M. E. Church and is Secretary of the Trustee Board of his Church. In politics he is a Republican. Among the secret orders he is somewhat active, being a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Court of Calanthe, American Woodmen and Household of Ruth, Mosaic Templars, Supreme Circle Eastern Star. He

is a Trustee of Morris Brown University, stockholder in the Atlanta Mutual Ins. Co., Standard Life Ins. Co., and Laborer's Penny Savings Bank of Waycross, Ga. For promoting the best interests of the race in the State and nation, he suggests honesty and punctuality in dealing with all men, a high standard of morality, and respect for womanhood without regard to color. He believes, therefore, that while others can help or hinder, the Negro's success or failure depends finally and mostly on himself. Prof. Pughsley was a leader in war activities. His property interests are at Bainbridge. His home is perhaps the most attractive owned by any colored person in Bainbridge.

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## EUGENE HENRY QUO

Rev. Eugene Henry Quo, of Savannah, combines vigor of body, brilliance of mind and consecration of life. The story of his life is unique in many respects. He is a native of Valdosta, where he was born March 20, 1871. His father, John Wesley Quo, was a successful machinist, blacksmith and wheelwright. His mother's maiden name was Sophronia D. Harrell. Both parents named were members of the church from early life and noted for their charity. The father was especially generous. He was the boy's ideal and encouraged him to aspire to the highest and best things. This attitude of the father and his ready sympathy was perhaps the most potent influence in the life of the boy. John Wesley Quo was of Indian extraction, strong and of large statue. Prior to Emancipation he belonged to a wealthy family at Rome, Ga., whose means were swept away by the war. Being a machinist and a trustworthy man, he was frequently sent out with teams and a squad of slaves to set up saw mills, factories and to set steamboat engines. Toward the close of the war, he had been sent on such a mission to Sanford, Fla. On the way back "Freedom" caught the party at Naylor, Ga., Lowndes County. There he went to work. In the same community he met and married Sophronia Harrell. She was a daughter of Susan Garrison. The difference in name is accounted for by the fact that



EUGENE HENRY QUO.



she bore the name of her master rather than that of her parents. Susan Garrison was owned last by the prominent Harrell family of Lowndes County. She was a native of North Carolina, having been born in or near Wilmington, and later brought South. Her parents were from Virginia.

After their marriage the Quo's settled in Valdosta where the family was reared. The father died in Savannah on June 11, 1905. The mother passed to her reward May 2, 1916.

It was from an ancestry like this and in the environment of a country town of the lower South that our subject was brought up. From childhood he evinced great intellectual aptitude. Such was his progress that at the early age of fifteen he was able to begin teaching. The story of his education can best be told in his own straight forward language.

He says, "I had no difficulty while doing preparatory work, as I was with my father, who was in position to give my sisters and myself the full benefit of regular attendance at the best schools in the section. Mine was the usual life of the town boy with indulgent parents. During all my preparatory school life I led my classes and carried off virtually all the honors at the end of each school year, and at graduation I was considered the brightest boy and most thorough student in the 15 South Georgia tier of counties. Taught some of the best schools in Georgia, Florida and Tennessee. The reputation I had gained, and my work itself had by this time created in me a burning desire to finish my education in some college or university. In those days, Atlanta University and Hampton were the real "Big Things" in schools. I longed to attend Hampton, and made application and received my admission card. My father was still aiding me and was willing for me to go. But it developed that Hampton was of a lower grade than I had already finished. Thus I had to give up Hampton and commence laying plans to go elsewhere, but here my troubles began.

There were originally four children in our family. Sisters Mollie and Florence, myself, and a younger brother who had died while yet a baby. Thus at this time there were two girls, both elder than I, and myself, all clamoring to be sent away to school. My younger sister succeeded with my mother's in-

fluence in being installed in Atlanta University. My older sister had about decided to settle down to a domestic life, and I, not getting to Hampton, was out of the running. In this period of my disappointment and what also seemed my doom, so far as finishing in college or university, I met Miss Lula Alberta Harvey, of Quitman, Ga., the daughter of Henry and Mary Harvey, an estimable young lady of good family, a matriculate of Spellman Seminary, a teacher, and ardent church worker, a friend of my sister Florence, and, who was a frequent visitor at our home.

After a time we were married and were blessed with two children, boy and a girl. We lost the girl in her second year. The boy, John Henry Quo, of Quitman, Ga., has a fine auto-repair business and married Miss Mary Essie Crawford. He entered the army, did his "bit" and was honorably discharged. After marrying, I did not accept further aid from my father and decided to cut for myself. I continued to teach school and to act as summer school expert between times. During which time I owned, edited and ran the "Republican," a weekly paper issued at Valdosta. Entered politics 1889-90, and held from time to time the various county offices in the Republican organization.

About this time, 1890, my great desire to finish my education returned to me. I had a little money, arranged for my wife and child and went North in the early spring to work at some of the resorts during the summer and to enter such of the schools in the fall which offered the best inducements to one with little means. But domestic reasons forced me to return in September of the same year without even matriculating. Reaching the state, I at once took up my old work of teaching. Later I quit teaching and entered the Rail Way Mail service under Harrison. Was fired by Cleveland. After that I returned to teaching. The exceedingly low level to which the teacher's pay decended forced me to enter the Parlor Car service of the old Georgia and Alabama Railroad and in turn the Plant System and A. C. L. and Central of Georgia.

Three or four years after marrying, I joined Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Valdosta. Making a little money on the railroad, and domestic condition being more favorable

than when I tried before, I quit the road to try school again. I went to Ann Arbor, Mich., studied in the State Schools, and experiencing a call to the ministry went East and arranged to enter Lincoln University. Reaching there I made application for full degree (S. T. B.) and joined the class in its 5th year after there had been a lapse of 15 years between my school days. This degree comprehending both college and ecclesiastical Greek and Latin, Hebrew, Aramaic and a working knowledge of French and German, I was compelled to be conditioned in both Greek and Latin. Such conditions to hold for three years and if I failed to make them up the S. T. B. was to be withheld. Thus I was forced to cover the same ground in three years that the other men of the class had covered in five and keep up my current studies. All said it could not be done but a friend and class-mate, Hedgeman, from Virginia, came to my rescue and helped me the first year. When I was called on during the last six months of my school life to read the three years of Greek and Latin in which I had been conditioned, I did so. Taking rank among the first three of the class. My university life and success were as my preparatory and high school careers at the top in Hebrew and Aramaic, Theology and kindred subjects, and never more than three down in any subject. I graduated in 1907 with the degree of S. T. B. and have done A. M., and Ph. D. since. Leaving the University I returned to Georgia and immediately entered the educational side of church work. I started out 1907 as a private or independent colporteur-missionary, lecturing, preaching and teaching. Am now working in the bounds and serving about 40 associations and 20 Sunday School Conventions having to do with about 2,000 of the ministry and a membership of more than 100,000.

Critic of the Savannah Baptist Ministers Union for many years organizer and president of the Fidelity Saving Bank of Savannah, a \$50,000.00 concern recently launched to do a general realty loan and investment banking business. On September 29, 1907, Mrs. Quo passed to her reward.

Dr. Quo is an omniverous reader. His favorite subjects are ancient, medieval and modern political history. Biography

and the great orations also hold a prominent place in his reading.

Dr. Kuo concerns himself with fundamentals rather than with incidentals. Speaking of the permanent progress of the race, he says, "I believe the one thing most needful to the Negro's permanent advancement, as a people, is education of such kind and direction as to give him such an extent of mental vision as to enable him to see and comprehend his present insignificant status as compared with the more favored races. This will awaken within him the prideful desire to reach that state in which he will have an equal chance with other men to work out his destiny among the races of the earth as God has allotted it to him.

Dr. Quo does not expect the negro to come into his own through material possessions alone. He does not, for a moment, disparage enterprise and thrift, but he realizes that a "man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth," but in what he is. His mental training and attitude must be such as to beget within him the realization of his position as a man, with the courage to contend manfully and respectfully for his rights. This presupposes knowledge of and respect for the other man's rights. In other words, Dr. Quo is a philosopher, whose thinking puts him in a class with the recognized leaders of the race.

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## ITALY LECONTE

Among the Georgia leaders who took the necessary time to equip themselves for efficient service must be mentioned Rev. Italy LeConte, A. B., A. M., S. T. B., of Union Point. He is doing that sort of conscientious, constructive work which is so essential to the progress of the race and the nation. He is combining his religious work with his educational program and has built up in the Union Point Normal and Industrial School an institution which is at once a credit to him and a blessing to the people.



ITALY LECONTE.

Rev. LeConte was born in the historic old county of Liberty and there grew to young manhood. His time was divided between the farm and such public schools as were available. When about fifteen years of age he joined the Presbyterian church in which he has since been most active. He did his academic or preparatory work at Dorehester Academy. When ready for college he matriculated at Biddle University from which he was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1901. His work as a teacher was begun in the public schools.

While attending Biddle University he taught during vacations in Georgia. At the conclusion of his college course, he took up the Course in Theology which he completed with the S. T. B. degree in 1904. On November 16, of the same year he was married to Miss Jennie Howard, of Scranton, Pa. Mrs. LeConte was educated at Livingstone College and enters heartily into the work and plans of her husband. After completing his work at Biddle, Rev. LeConte served the Presbyterian Church at Newnan for a few months. He went from there to his present work at Union Point. Beginning in 1914 as the sole teacher, he now has a faculty of six. The enrollment has grown from thirty-five to two hundred ten. As pastor of the only Presbyterian church in his immediate section, he has built up a good congregation, while his school which is under the auspices of the Freedman's Board is well known in the denomination.

Rev. LeConte is a forceful and fluent speaker and has frequently been heard not only in local denominational gatherings but in the General Assemblies as well. Looking back over his youth, he is of the opinion that his mother's influence was the greatest single factor for good in his life. His favorite reading is history. He belongs to the Masons. Rev. and Mrs. LeConte own an attractive home at Union Point.

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# WILLIAM HARRISON BRYAN

Dr. William Harrison Bryan, the only colored Physician at Waynesboro has done two worthwhile things. He has worked out in his own professional and business endeavors a worthy measure of success. He has also demonstrated to the youth of his race what a boy with an ideal can do if he has energy and determination.

Dr. Bryan is a native of Screven County, having been born at Sylvania, June 3, 1872. His father, Richard Bryan, who is still living (1919), is a prosperous farmer. He is a son of Coley and Matilda Bryan, the latter still living at the ripe old age of 114. Dr. Bryan's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Rosa Horton. Her people were of South Carolina extraction.

Our subject grew up in Screven County and attended the local public school. Early in life he won the reputation of being a brilliant boy. From Rev. John Watts, a Methodist Presiding Elder, he caught the inspiration which held him to the hardest tasks while preparing himself for the serious work of life.

When ready for college he entered Clark University and won his A. B. degree in 1902. Later he matriculated at Meharry Medical College and won his M. D. degree in 1907 with first honor. The fact that he had to make his own way in school did not discourage the boy. He was never afraid of work and when the necessity arose worked with his own hands or taught school. It was his policy while at Clark University and in medical College, to permit nothing to break into the school year when once begun. He preferred to stop and work for a whole year and then return for another full year. While in school, he was active in college athletics, especially baseball.

On Dec. 8, 1910, Dr. Bryan was married to Miss Lila Norton, of Waynesboro. They have one child, William H. Byran, Jr. Mrs. Byran was educated at Clark and Claflin Universities. She is a daughter of Solomon and Easter Norton.

In 1907, Dr. Bryan located at Waynesboro and began the general practice. He was successful from the beginning and already has built up a practice which would be a credit to



WILLIAM HARRISON BRYAN.



an older man. In addition to his practice Dr. Bryan has also shown good business ability and judgment. He has invested his earnings in Waynesboro renting property and Burke County farm lands. He owns three farms amounting to 1,271 acres which he farms with profit.

Dr. Bryan is a member of the M. E. Church and before his professional work crowded him, he was very active, having been trustee and Supt. of the S. S. He is still a Steward. He is an active Pythian and was at one time a Mason.

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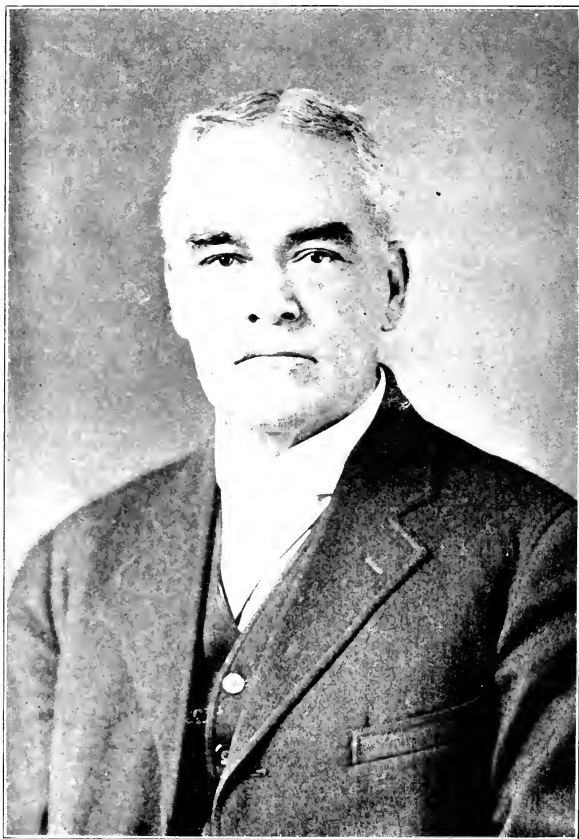
## SAMUEL ELIJAH PIERCY

That God deals personally and individually with men is strikingly illustrated by the life and work of Rev. Samuel Elijah Piercy, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Macon. Though most of his work has been outside Georgia, he is a native of Bibb County where he was born soon after the outbreak of the war, on October 10, 1861. He is a son of Critty Walker whose mother, Lucy, was a native African. Rev. Piercy's mother died when he was only a boy at the tender age of six years, and the child was bound out to the Holt family and thus denied the early opportunity of an education.

When fifteen years of age he left Macon and went to Memphis, Tenn., where for five years he worked in a wagon factory and learned the trade of Wheelwright.

When he had reached the age of twenty he returned to Georgia and on June 22, 1881, was married to Miss Neati Etter Dumas, a daughter of Murph Dumas of Spalding County. Of the six children born to them the following survive: John H., Charley, Pinkey (Mrs. Gardner), and Annie (Mrs. Sanders). There are (1919) twenty-two grandchildren. In 1891 Mrs. Piercy passed to her reward and after a number of years, Rev. Piercy was married again to Miss Sophia G. Delano of Louisiana, on September 21st, 1904. Three children were born to this union; Olympia, Jehu J., and Samuel E. Piercy, Jr.

Rev. Piercy remained on the farm for a period of ten years. It was in the beginning of his work on the farm in the summer



SAMUEL ELIJAH PIERCY.

of 1881, that he was happily converted while ploughing in the field. This experience was very real to him as well as very wonderful. The years have brought many new experiences and many changes but they have not dimmed the light which broke on his soul that summer day. Almost immediately came the realization that he must preach the Gospel, and he at once became active in the work of the church and assisted in evangelistic work with marked success. It was not until 1891, however, that he was licensed to preach, and June 22, 1892, was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Shiloh Baptist Church.

On the death of his wife (Neati Etter) the children were placed with their grandparents and our subject devoted himself to the work into which he had been called and in which he has been greatly blessed. His first pastorate was the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church which he served a little less than a year and which greatly prospered under his able administration. While North on a vacation he held a meeting at the Chambers Street Baptist Church, of St. Louis, and in two weeks baptised fifty-four into the fellowship of the church.

All unexpectedly the church called him to its pulpit where he remained for six years. For a large part of this time he attended Shedloff College which is over the line in Illinois. As this was his first opportunity to go to school, he had to begin in the lower grades but his progress was rapid. At St. Louis a debt of sixteen thousand dollars was paid off, the church remodeled and an average of a hundred new members a year added to the congregation. In 1900 he went to Cuba as a Missionary under appointment of the National Baptist Convention, after six months he returned to the states and was called to the Amozion Baptist Church of New Orleans which he served for five years. These were busy years as the pastor not only looked after his congregation but also attended Leland University where he completed the Normal Course. The church grew from a membership of fifty to three hundred and fifty-five. The house of worship was completed at a cost of four thousand dollars. From New Orleans Rev. Piercy was called to the pastorate of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church at Los Angeles, Cal. He went to this work in 1904, finding twenty-

eight members and but little in the way of a plant in which to work. When he left them in 1909 there was a membership of three hundred and the property of the church was valued at the handsome sum of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, with only a five-thousand-dollar indebtedness. In 1909 he returned to New Orleans to the church he had previously served and spent nine years of profitable work for the Master. On February 12, 1918, he began his work as pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Macon. He found the work disorganized and the church in debt. In the first year of his pastorate the work took on new life and two hundred and twenty new members were added and over six thousand dollars in cash raised for the support of the work.

So the little orphan boy of the sixties has come back to his native place and is doing a great work for God and his people. Rev. Piercy has traveled extensively in the United States, Cuba and Canada. His principal property interests are at New Orleans, La.

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## PETER ROBERT KING

Throughout the South one occasionally finds among the Negroes a British West Indian. As they were not discriminated against they have more satisfactory family records than are usually found among the Negroes of the States. It is not at all unusual for a West Indian to trace his ancestry back for several generations. Another thing which can be truthfully said of them is that they rank high in intelligence. This is not strange since they have the advantage of the best government schools without discrimination. Almost invariably they retain their British citizenship, but in every other way enter heartily into the life and work of the race. It happens that one of them, Dr. Brooks, of Rome, is now President of the State Medical Society.

Another promising young physician from the British West Indies is Dr. Peter Robert King, of Monroe. He is a native of Trinidad, where he was born January 10, 1878. His father



PETER ROBERT KING.

John Andrew King, was a mechanic. He passed away in 1917.

Jno. A. King was a son of Andrew and Jane King. Dr. King's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Louisa Niles, a daughter of William and Maria (LaCruix) Niles. As a boy young King attended the government schools. He did his college work at Nelson Street Training College, a Catholic institution in Trinidad, where he completed the course in April, 1906. After that he taught for more than five years under Monsignor Maingot, D. D.

In the fall of 1912 he came to the States and going directly to Nashville, Tenn., matriculated at Meharry College where, after taking a combined course in the Medical Department of Walden University, he won his M. D. degree in 1916.

On October 3, 1913, he was married to Miss Myrtilla Thomas also anative of Antigua, West Indies. They have one child, V'de Grasse King. Mrs. King is an accomplished organist.

After completing his medical course, Dr. King passed the Georgia State Board and in June, 1917, located at Monroe, Georgia, where he has since resided, and has established a good practice. He has the reputation of being a very fine diagnostician.

Among the secret orders Dr. King is identified with the Masons, Mechanics and the Pythians. He is Medical Examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company, the North Carolina Mutual, the Atlanta Mutual and a number of local lodges.

He is a member of the Catholic Church and his favorite reading consists of history, geography, science and languages. During the war he volunteered for the Medical Reserve Corps and was accepted but was not called into service.

As he still retains his British Citizenship he naturally takes no part in politics.

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## LUTHER HENRY BURDELL

Luther Henry Burdell, of Macon, is a successful business man who was born in the Classic City of Athens right in the midst of the war on November 20, 1862. He never saw his father as he died before the boy was born. His mother was



LUTHER HENRY BURDELL.

Keziah Burdell who lived till 1892. Young Burdell grew up in and around Athens, dividing his time between the farm in the country and school at Knox Institute. When about eighteen years of age he was employed by a surveying party with which he went into various parts of Georgia. At Americus he met Miss Laura J. Strickland, of Valdosta, who was teaching in the Americus school. On December 28, 1892, they were married. She bore him four children three of whom survive. They are Luther H., Jr. (now, 1919, in military service in France), Jesse T. and Ulyses S. Burdell. In the summer of 1910 Mrs. Burdell paid the debt of nature. Later Mr. Burdell was married a second time to Mrs. Maryland V. Marlowe, herself a widow, and principal of one of Macon's public schools.

After his first marriage Mr. Burdell moved to Macon and did hotel work for half a dozen years.

He then opened a grocery store and conducted a mercantile business for eleven years. During this time he was more or less active in politics as a result of which he secured an appointment on the Macon Police Force and served as patrolman for eleven years. In fact was the last colored policeman in the city of Macon. He then went into industrial insurance work in which he was unusually successful. He began as a local agent for the Pilgrims Life and Health and was their first agent in Georgia to write and collect a hundred dollar weekly debit. When the Pythians decided to erect a modern office building in Macon, Mr. Burdell was made Secretary of the Building Committee. On completion of the building he was made Custodian which position he held for some time. He is now superintendent of the Macon branch of the Chatham Life and Health Insurance Co.

In addition to his membership in the Pythians he is also a Mason, and is prominent in the work of that illustrious order. He is a member of the Committee on Jurisprudence in the Grand Lodge and is also one of the General Officers of the Grand United Order of the Wise Men of the East, being the Supreme Grand Treasurer.

Mr. Burdell is a useful member of the A. M. E. Church in which he has been a Trustee for twenty years.,

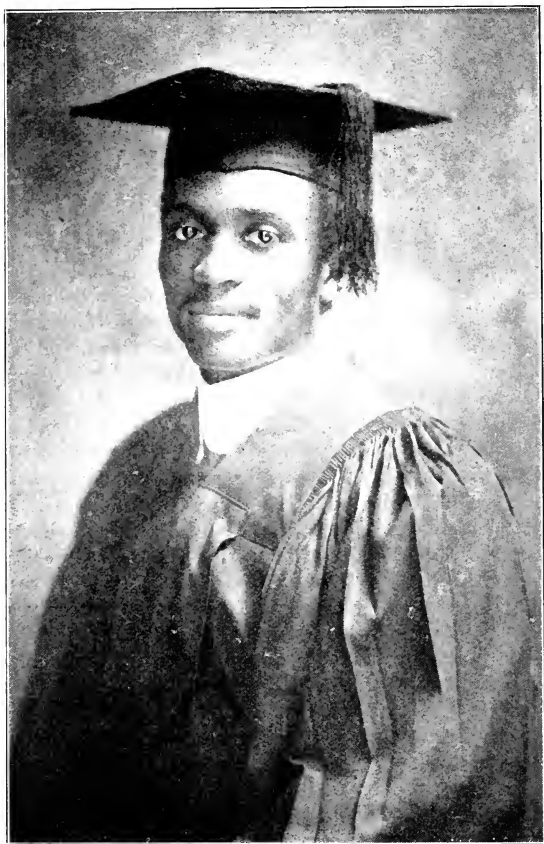


His favorite reading is the Bible and in this day when so few of the laymen are familiar with the Book of Books this is to be commended. He looks to education as the basis of permanent progress among his people. His property interests are in Clarke County and in Macon. Mrs. Burdell owns valuable property in Brunswick and Macon.

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## WANZIE ALLEN DAVIS

There is nothing finer than to see a boy of ability and ambition start out to conquer the things which stand between him and success. He grows stronger as one obstacle after another is overcome and almost before he realizes it he is doing a man's work though it has cost years of hard work and close application to equip himself properly. This is true in the life of the man whose name appears at the head of this biography. He began the practice of his chosen profession at Macon in the fall of 1918, but back of that were years of work and study. He was born near LaGrange, Ga., in Troup County, on November 11, 1886. His parents were Jerry and Mary Davis. His paternal grandparents were Jerry and Celia Davis. His grandfather on the maternal side was Dick Weaver. All his people are long lived. While our subject was still a small boy the family moved to Coweta County. Young Davis attended the rural schools and worked on the farm till he was seventeen years of age. At that time he entered the grades at Atlanta Baptist College (now Morehouse College) and remained at that institution until he won his A. B. degree in 1914. After reaching the high school grades it was necessary for him to make his own way which he did by means of hotel work in some of the leading hotels of Atlanta. After completing his college course he matriculated at Meharry College where he won his M. D. degree in 1918. While working out his medical course he spent his vacations in the dining car service which gave him an unusual opportunity to see most of America. On Nov. 1, 1917, Dr. Davis was married to Miss Pearl Cummings, a pharmacist of Dublin, Ga. She was a daughter of Daniel Cummings, of



WANZIE ALLEN DAVIS.

Laurens County. Mrs. Davis passed away on Oct. 24, 1918, and their only child followed the mother a few days later.

Dr. Davis is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Masons. He is also a member of the Georgia State Medical Association. He took an active part in college athletics while attending school. His favorite reading is current news and history. From his observation in various parts of the country he has come to the conclusion that the greatest need of the race is Christian education.

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## NERVEY JOHN CROLLEY

Among the young men of the M. E. Connection in Georgia who are doing constructive work must be mentioned Rev. Nervey John Crolley now (1919) stationed at Covington. He was born in Rockdale County, on Sept. 7, 1875. His father, Rev. John Crolley, D. D., of Atlanta, has been in the Methodist itinerancy for a generation and is well known in Georgia. John Crolley's parents were Elek and Georgiana Crolley. Rev. N. J. Crolley's mother is a remarkable woman. She has devoted years to relief and prison work and while going quietly and sweetly about her work in the spirit of the Master, has exerted a beneficent influence not only in her home but on many a rough life, otherwise neglected. Perhaps more than anything else the firm but gentle influence of his mother influenced the life of our subject. He was converted at ten. From boyhood he had an inseparable impression that he must preach the Gospel. As he grew toward maturity he resisted the feeling but finally yielded and has for a number of years been in the active pastorate.

While he was still a small boy the family moved to Atlanta and he attended the public school there. He took the Academic Course at Clarke University which he finished in 1894. He taught several years in the rural schools and was for two years Principal of the public school at Monticello. After definitely deciding to take up the ministry he entered Gammon for his Theological Course which he completed in 1907.



NERVEV JOHN CROLLEY AND WIFE.

He was licensed to preach in 1904 and joined the Conference in 1906. He enjoys the distinction of having been on Station work from the very beginning of his regular ministry. His first appointment was the College Park Station which he served for three years. He remodeled the church and built up the congregation. After that he served the Grantville Station four years and built an annex to the church. From Grantville he went to McDonough where in a single year a hundred new members were added to the church. His next appointment was the Rome Station where he preached for one year and raised fifteen hundred dollars on the church debt. Since then he has preached three years at Gainesville and is now in his third year at Covington. At both stations the work prospered under his administration.

Rev. Crolley has been successful in evangelistic work and is in demand as a revivalist. He attended the 1912 General Conference of his church. Apart from the Bible his favorite reading is history and biography.

During the war he was Chairman of the Committee on W. S. S. for Newton County, and under his direction the county lead the State according to population. He is statistician for the Atlanta Conference and has been complimented for the excellence of his work in this connection.

In politics he is a Republican. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians and the Odd Fellows. His property interests are at Atlanta. He believes that the permanent progress of the race depends upon "better educational facilities and a man's chance."

On November 10, 1901, he was married to Miss Zola L. Usher, of Covington. Mrs. Crolley is a Normal Graduate of Atlanta University. She has served many years as teacher in the public schools. She is a talented musician, and an efficient teacher. Under the auspices of the Jeans Fund she is County Demonstrator for Newton County, in which capacity she has done excellent work. She enters heartily into the work of her husband.

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## JOHN HENRY EVANS

Among the younger men of the Baptist ministry in Georgia there is scarcely a man who is more active or whose star of promise shines brighter with promise than Rev. John Henry Evans, of Macon. The story of his life is simple enough and yet it stands for years of careful preparation and patient endeavor.

At this time (1919) he is pastor of Macedonia and Mt. Olive Baptist churches at Macon and at Mt. Moriah at Milledgeville. He is Moderator of the Orthodox Middle Georgia Association, a Trustee of Central City College, a member of the Reformatory Board and General Manager of that Institution; President of the Second Middle Georgia S. S. Convention, President of the Baptist Ministers Union of Macon, and President of the Old Folks Home, Macon. He was born in the historic old county of Wilkes, February 24, 1882. His parents were Jack and Mary Evans. His paternal grandparents were Bob and Mariah Evans and his maternal grandfather was George Richardson. The family moved to McDuffie County while our subject was still a baby. Here as a boy, he worked on the farm and went to the public schools. Later he went to Augusta and attended school there. On June 20, 1901, Rev. Evans was married to Miss Matilda Jones, of Augusta.

He was converted in early youth and was licensed to preach by Rev. J. W. Whitehead at Antioch Baptist Church, Augusta, Ga., before he was twenty. On December 20, 1906, he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Newton Baptist Church of Athens, and has since been about his Masters business. His first pastorate was the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of Milledgeville, Hancock County, which he is still (1919) serving. A new house of worship has been erected and the congregation built up. He has also served Vaughans Chapel six years and remodeled the church, Coopers Chapel six years, Mt. Olive, Macon, nine years, church remodeled; Zion Hill, Monroe, Ga., two years, church seated; Marshallville six months and Macedonia two years. At the latter place the house of worship has been renovated and as indebtedness of three thousand dollars cleared up.



JOHN HENRY EVANS.

Rev. Evans took his theological course at Morehouse College after entering the ministry and won his B. Th. degree in 1913. He is a regular attendant at the meetings of the National Baptist Convention and is a prominent figure in all Baptist gatherings of the State. His property interests are at Macon and Milledgeville. He is Secretary-Treasurer of the Peoples Drug Store, of Macon. He belongs to the Masons and Pythians and in politics is a Republican.

As a preacher he is fluent and forceful and as a pastor careful and attentive to his work. As a result he has not only large congregations but many warm personal friends as well. He believes the greatest single need of his race is Christian education.

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## JOHN WESLEY HUGULEY

Dr. John Wesley Huguley, who for nearly a quarter of a century has been one of the leading physicians of Americus, is of Alabama origin. He is a man of unusual ability and has made for himself a brilliant record from his school boy days to the present.

He was born at Berlin, Ala., August 10, 1870. His father, James Huguley, was a carpenter and a farmer. His mother's name was Mary. Both had been slaves before Emancipation. His maternal grandparents were from Kentucky while the paternal side was of native Alabama stock.

Even as a boy young Huguley was a hard worker. In the local public schools he made a splendid record. Later he attended Tuskegee Institute where he was graduated from the Academic Department of that famous institution in 1888. For his regular college course he went to Talladega College, where his native ability and splendid memory showed to advantage as he won prize after prize in that institution.

Now well equipped for the study of medicine which he had decided to pursue he did an unusual thing, making the four year course in three years and winning his M. D. degree at Meharry College in 1895. His fellow students both at college



and at Medical College could tell of his personal assistance which he was always willing to render. Of his school days he says, "I had to work most of the time, and did not have much time for study in the schools. I was compelled to study at home, and to work at my regular occupation during the day. I often had to teach either in Georgia or Alabama in order that I might stay in college and make my classes. My parents taught me the laws of right living, and the colleges helped me a great deal, but my greatest inspiration was the late Dr. Booker T. Washington."

On completion of his medical course Dr. Huguley began the practice in Americus, where he has since resided. He does a general practice and has been unusually successful. He has accumulated good property in addition to an attractive home at Americus. In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the Congregational church.

Dr. Huguley though a busy man has taken the time to travel extensively and is a well informed man in every respect. His favorite reading consists of History and Biography.

On July 14, 1897, he was married to Miss Ella E. Spencer, of Columbus, a daughter of William H. and Lydia Spencer. They have five children. Their eldest son, John W., Jr., was a student at Howard University S. A. T. C. Instructors Camp. His record at Howard was a brilliant one, having made the highest mark in the machine gun class. He was made instructor at the S. A. T. C. at Tuskegee with the rank of Sergeant Major. In 1917 he won a gold medal as the Captain of the best drilled company. His company also won a silver loving cup which was offered for the best drilled company.

tivities alone. He won a \$10.00 gold prize for scholarship and

His brilliant success has not been confined to military activities. He was a commencement speaker with honors. It must be remembered this was all done before the age of 20. Their second son, Clyde Maceo, is a student (1919) at Tuskegee. The others are Tousaint E. Oline, Ella and Vivian Huguley.

Dr. Huguley learned printing while in school and used the trade to good advantage while in Medical College. At one

time he and Prof. S. R. Marshall ran a newspaper at Columbus.

The doctor is very active in fraternal work and works for the benefit of his race and humanity.

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## **JAMES ELIJAH BROWN**

It speaks well for both the character and ability of a man when, after completing his education, he is called to be the educational leader of the people of his home city. Such has been the experience of Prof. James Elijah Brown, Principal of the LaGrange Public School. He is a quiet thorough going educator, with more than thirty years experience among those who know him best. He was born at LaGrange on February 8, 1863, just after Lincoln had issued his Emancipation Proclamation, when the fate of the race hung in the balance. His father Herndon Brown, was a mason by trade. His mother was Amelia (Culberson) Brown, a daughter of Rev. Simon Culberson, a Baptist minister. Coming of school age soon after the war when schools for Negroes were in their infancy, he made the best of the local public schools and attended what was then known as LaGrange Academy. It was necessary for him to work his own way through school. After advancing to the point where he was able to pass the teacher's examination, he began teaching and has been in the school room continuously for about thirty-five years. Desiring to better equip himself for leadership he went to Atlanta Baptist College from 1881 to 1890 where he took the Normal and Theological Courses. He joined the Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, when about twenty-one years of age, while there in school, and soon felt called to preach. It is as an educator, however, that he is best known. He taught for several years in the rural schools, but on his return from college was made Principal of the Lagrange Baptist Academy which was run under the auspices of the Western Union Association. In 1903 he came into the work of the public schools of which he is now the Supervisor. Prof. Brown is an ardent advocate of industrial education and en-



JAMES ELIJAH BROWN.

thusiastic about missions. Next after his Bible, he has been helped most by a book entitled "Pushing to the Front."

In politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the Good Samaritans and is Financial Secretary of the Brown Beneficial Society. He owns a comfortable home on Fannin Street, La-Grange, Georgia. He has been Superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School for a number of years.

On October 14, 1890, he was married to Miss Amanda Wilkinson, of Heard County. Of the fourteen children born to them the following survive: Amelia E., Herndon L., Susie, James E., Jr., George T., Edward C., Myrtle M., Ida M., and Christine A., and Lillian M. Brown.

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## JONAS LUCIUS WHITE

The remarkable development which has marked the progress of the race since Emancipation finds no better illustration than in the lives of the men who make up the medical profession. As a rule, they are intelligent and progressive and work in cordial co-operation with the white men of their profession. Not only so, but in the matter of property they are among the most prosperous members of the race. Among the young men of the profession who have already won success, is Dr. Jonas Lucius White, of Fitzgerald.

Dr. White was born in the neighboring county of Telfair, April 3, 1877. His father, Rev. Jonas Smith White, a minister of the C. M. E. Connection, is still living (1919). Rev. White's father was brought to Georgia from North Carolina where he belonged to the Arringtons. Dr. White's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Della Felder. Young White's early education was obtained while his father was in the itinerancy and so constantly moving. When more mature, he went to Payne College and finished the College Preparatory course. When ready for Medical College he matriculated at Meharry and won his M. D. degree in 1909. His home training was such as to arouse his ambition early in life. Along with this he was taught to work and brought up to study. During his college days he



JONAS LUCIUS WHITE.

would teach school during his summer vacations and filled the chair of Principal one year at Vienna, Ga.

In 1910 he began the practice of his chosen profession in Douglas, and later moved to Fitzgerald where he has since resided. Like his father for whom he gratefully provides, he is a member of the C. M. E. Church. He is also identified with the Odd Fellows and the Good Samaritans. He is examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company and is a member of the State Medical and Dental Associations. Of course most of his time for reading is taken up with his professional reading and the current news, but he has a special fondness for history. His principal investments are at Fitzgerald. He has been a leader in the recent war activities. As he looks back over his own experiences and observes conditions about him, he is of the opinion that the permanent progress of the race awaits better educational facilities.

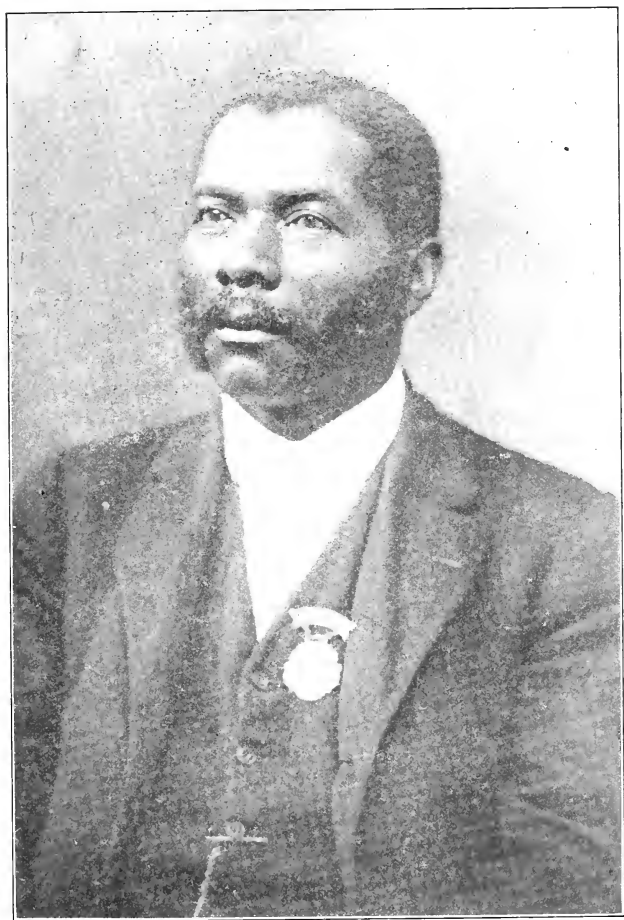
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## AARON PARKER

South Georgia has furnished the A. M. E. Connection with many notable men. Some of them have found their way into other states or other sections while some, like Rev. Aaron Parker, D. D., of Fitzgerald, have remained to serve the people of the section in which they were reared. Dr. Parker belongs to Brooks County where he was born March 15, 1863. Both parents were slaves. They were Nat and Rose Parker. His mother was Miss Rose Smith before her marriage, and was a daughter of Julia Anne Smith.

Young Parker came of school age during the hard years immediately following the war. The poverty of the colored population at that time as well as the country schools rendered it difficult indeed for the struggling negro boy to get an education. He attended the district schools of Brooks County, but was denied the opportunity of a college education, but since entering the ministry he has taken a correspondence course in Theology from Morris Brown.

From childhood Dr. Parker has been identified with the church. The years of his boyhood and young manhood were



AARON PARKER.

spent on the farm where he did all sorts of farm work and developed a rugged body which has been able to stand the strain of all the years. He joined the Conference at Brunswick under Bishop Gaines in 1890 and at once entered upon the active work of the ministry. A mere list of the positions he has filled is a long one. He served the Reedy Creek Mission three years and built two churches; Pilgrims Rest one year and bought the lumber for a church; the Bell Circuit, Albany, three years; the Iron City Circuit two years, built three churches; Allapaha two years, built one church; Homerville Circuit one year, raised three hundred dollars for building; Lambright Circuit two years, built a church and parsonage; Douglas Circuit two years, built two churches and one parsonage; Waycross Circuit one year; Moultrie two years, built church and parsonage; Lyons one year; Hawkinsville Station two years, built new brick church; Rochelle three years; Helena two years and Hansondale for a few months. In 1913 he was promoted to the district and presided over the Brunswick District for five years. At the last Conference he was appointed to the Waycross District.

Dr. Parker was a delegate to the Centennial Conference at Philadelphia in 1916 and is a trustee of Morris Brown University. His secret order affiliations are with the Masons, the Pythians, the Odd Fellows, Good Samaritans and other local orders. He is not only a good preacher but is also a careful business man. He owns a home and other property at Fitzgerald where he has resided since 1906.

He believes that his people should give special attention to the matter of accumulating property especially real estate and homes.

On January 9, 1879, Dr. Parker was married to Miss Sarah Green, of Brooks County. Of the four children born to them two are living. They are Henry and Bertha Parker.

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# SAMUEL MANUEL JACKSON

Rev. Samuel Manuel Jackson, D. D., is one of the effective Missionary Baptist pastors and church workers, and one of the active, public-spirited men of his race in Georgia. He was born on a farm in Thomas County, on February 27, 1869, son of Andrew Jackson and Sarah (Griffin) Jackson. His father was sold in Richmond, Va., at ten years of age and brought to Georgia by Daniel McKinnon; so beyond that he knows nothing of his paternal ancestry. His maternal grandparents were Samuel and Anikey Griffin.

S. M. Jackson's parents were quite poor, and his father died when the boy was in his tenth year, leaving the mother with four children to rear and educate as best she could; so his early education consisted of what could be obtained in the country public schools and by hard study at night after the close of the day's work. He has, however, continued to avail himself of such opportunities as were afforded for intellectual improvement, and as late as 1907 finished a correspondence course in Theology and has been granted the D. D. degree by Princeton University, of Princeton, Ind. The reading which he has found most helpful is along the line of Bible commentaries and encyclopedias.

After leaving school, he married and settled down to farming but three years later (1890) he entered the ministry and went as a licensed preacher to Waycross, where he has since resided. He was ordained October 28, 1896, by the Macedonia Baptist Church of Waycross.

For two years he worked as a common laborer and did pastoral work at the same time; but a man of great energy and determination, he had by the end of the two years reached the point where he could launch out fully into the work of the ministry. To that he has devoted himself, with growing success, from that time forward. He has not only been successful as a pastor, but as a builder of churches and his influence has been felt in many other ways. For eleven years he served as pastor of the St. Peters Church in his home town. For six years he was moderator of the second Fowltown Association and five



SAMUEL MANUEL JACKSON.

years President of the City Ministers' Union of Waycross. He is now (1919) secretary of the Great Eastern Association, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Douglas, which he has served for seven years, the First Baptist Church, Screven, where he is in his ninth year and pastored for eight years the Macedonia Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida. The latter work he resigned, in 1919, to accept the call of the Friendship Baptist Church at Waycross. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Central City College and was for a number of years a member of the Executive Committee of the State Baptist Convention.

His church building activities include new houses of worship at Waycross, Homerville, Jacksonville, Douglas and preparations for a new church at Screven.

On March 14, 1887, he was married to Miss Sallie Elizabeth Davison, daughter of Perry and Fannie Davison, of Thomasville. Of the fifteen children born to them, six are now living, as follows: John Henry, Princetta Belle, Estella, Leona, Nora Lee and Willie Jackson.

In politics he is a Republican. He is a member of the Masonic order and the Pythians. He is a man of forceful, independent spirit, who believes that with a square deal the Negro can stand alone. He says also: "The Negro, like all other races, should take an active part in publishing facts about the race, so that the world may know who they are and what they are doing and what they are capable of doing. Usually only the dark side is published by the white race. The world should be given the truth. Those who do good should receive credit for it. And for this the leaders of our race are responsible."

Notwithstanding his disadvantageous start in life, such have been his energy, economy and efficiency of management, that he has acquired a good home and other valuable property at Waycross.

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## GREEN POMEROY PRESCOTT

A man entering upon the work of the itinerancy in the Methodist Church makes the record on which his promotion depends. Jesus said to his disciples that if they would have the places of great honor in the kingdom the way to such places was through great service. It is so in the church. If a man is not content with a small mission work he has only to make himself too large for the mission and there is a good circuit awaiting him, and so on up as he grows in efficiency and intelligence.

This outlines the experience of Rev. Green Pomeroy Prescott, B. D. of the A. M. E. Connection who is now (1919) stationed at Gaines Chapel, Waycross, but who is a native of Screven County, where he first saw the light, March 15, 1873. His father, Aaron Prescott, who was a farmer, passed away when the boy was only three years of age, leaving the son to be brought up by the mother. His mother before her marriage, was Miss Charlotte Herrington.

Rev. Prescott was married on May 27, 1896, to Miss Ida A. E. Hall, a daughter of Richard and Anna Hall, of Statesboro. They have one child, Charlotte Ann Prescott.

As a boy young Prescott worked on the farm and went to public school in Screven County. Later he went to Savannah public schools. His theological work was done at Morris Brown College. He was converted at the early age of twelve and became active in the church. He passed through every official position which a layman may hold in the church and Sunday school and after having been licensed as an exhorter and local preacher, joined the Conference at Darien under Bishop Turner in 1899. Since that time he has had a fruitful ministry and has forged ahead to important station work. His first appointment was to the mission at Thrift where he preached for two years. On his first work he built a house of worship and has been a builder throughout his ministry. Since that time he has served The Ridgeway Circuit two years, built one church and repaired another; Reidsville Circuit two years, built a parsonage; Rocky Ford Circuit, bought a church and



GREEN POMEROY PRESCOTT.

organized a mission; Guyton Circuit, built two other churches; Swainsboro Circuit four years, built church and parsonage; Vidalia two years, finished a church; Gaines Chapel, Savannah two years; Hawkinsville Station two years, where a church was completed and is now (1919) in his second year at Gaines Chapel, where he has another uncompleted church on his hands.

Rev. Prescott was a delegate to the 1904 General Conference. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons and Pythians. He is a Trustee of Morris Brown College. He owns a home and some renting property at Guyton and farm property near Swainsboro and in Candler County besides some small holdings in Savannah.

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## CLARENCE BAILEY TYSON

Early in life Dr. Clarence Bailey Tyson determined to secure an education and to make a man of himself. The way was not easy, for the boy had no money and the present high rate of wages was not dreamed of.

He is a native of Florida, having been born at Monticello, October 15, 1872. His parents were George and Janie (Jefferson) Tyson. In the absence of written records he knows little of his earlier ancestry. He worked with his father on the farm till he was about eighteen years of age. After that, in order to earn money for college, he worked in the orange groves, cooked at hotels and later on steamboats till he had sufficient means to enter Talladega College in Alabama. As soon as school was out he would go to work and remain on the job till school started again. Two vacations were spent at Anniston, Ala. After that he was able to secure teacher's license and found the way somewhat easier, earning money during the summer months for the succeeding months at college. His teaching at this time was in Alabama.

He had made up his mind to study medicine and so matriculated at Meharry Medical College where he won his M. D. degree in 1897. While taking his medical course, he spent his



CLARENCE BAILEY TYSON.

vacations teaching in Georgia. On completion of his course he came to Willacoochee, Ga., finished out the school term and practiced there for about a year. He then went to Waycross for a year, but recognizing in Savannah a better location, moved there and has since resided in that city, where he has built up a large general practice. As a student he was active and popular and both at Talladega and at Meharry was a prominent figure in both baseball and football. At an earlier day he was more or less active in politics but since settling down to the practice of medicine finds but little time for anything else. Even his reading is limited largely to professional matters. While taking his place and doing his part as a citizen and a member of the race, he has not sought public positions. He belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Pythians. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church and was City Physician for five years. He is identified with the South Atlanta and the Georgia State Medical Societies.

On January 2, 1898, Dr. Tyson was married to Miss Rosa B. Moody, of Georgia. She was educated at Morris Brown University and was an accomplished teacher before her marriage. They have three children, Alma V., William G., and Clarence B. Tyson, Jr. Dr. Tyson owns a comfortable home in Savannah besides additional real estate and other investments.

He was medical examiner under the recent military draft. He is of the opinion that the real progress of the race depends on Christian education.

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## EDWARD SEABROOK

Edward Seabrook, of Savannah, is a most interesting and entertaining man to meet. One soon learns just from his conversation that he is a man of intelligence and ability. One must know the story of his life, however, to understand his success.

He is a native of the sister state of South Carolina, having been born at Aiken, Nov. 6, 1869. He was not more than six months old when the family moved to Edisto where the boy





EDWARD SEABROOK.

went to school and remained until he was about fourteen. Later he went to school at Long Island, N. Y.

Even as a boy he took to seafaring as naturally as a duck takes to water and so ambitious and active was he that he soon qualified as a Master and Pilot of vessels and was granted a license at an age which made him the youngest pilot in the service. He still preserves the license which is now the oldest. His work during the years took him up and down the Atlantic so that he knows the Eastern Shore line of America from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, like a railroad engineer knows the curves and grades in his run. In his work as a pilot he simply followed his own natural tendencies. In his contact with other men he has been unusually successful because he has made a study of their tendencies and has adjusted his conduct in such a way as to please them.

In Savannah shipping circles Edward Seabrook has been well known and deservedly popular for years. When he left the open sea and went into river steamer work, he was troubled with Malaria. So in 1906 he gave up seafaring and established a modern undertaking establishment in Savannah. He has an elaborate place on West Broad Street where he owns a large up to date brick building, his undertaking establishment occupying the first floor, the other parts of the building being a carriage house and a modern apartment. His business has grown to very large proportions so that Mr. Seabrook is now as prominent in business circles as he formerly was in Marine circles. He is more or less independent in politics, voting for the man he wants rather than the party. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church in which he is a Trustee. Among the secret orders he affiliated with the Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians. Mr. Seabrook has extensive real estate interests in Savannah and is a stockholder and director in the Wage Earners Savings Bank. In fact he takes an active interest in every thing looking to the advancement of his people. He has observed conditions in every part of the country, and is of the opinion that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by making a common school education at least, general among the people.

## DAVID DANIEL SIMPSON

David Daniel Simpson, of Wayeross, who is prominent in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies, especially that of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, was born in Macon County, Ala., on December 16, 1866, and has lived to see the most remarkable changes in Alabama and South Georgia. All his life he has been a hard worker. His mother was Sally Simpson. His father was his mother's former master. He also inherits a strain of Indian blood from his mother's side.

Mr. Simpson's education was limited to the public schools of Alabama. At an early age he went to work at the Tallasse Cotton Factory where he remained for several years. After that he went to Montgomery and learned the shoe makers trade at which he worked. He also served as butler for a part of the time he was in Montgomery. With the opening up of the Georgia timber belt he moved to Wayeross where he has resided for a number of years. He has done an extensive business in timber wood and ties.

On December 8, 1887, he was married to Miss Addie Lee Moss who was a daughter of William and Barnum Moss. They have four children, Teresa (Mrs. Staats), Ludy Pearl (Mrs. Whittington), J. D. and Addie May Simpson. Mr. Simpson has been careful to give his children the educational advantages which he lacked in his youth. Though himself denied a college education he has traveled extensively in this country and is a well informed man. He is a member of the Baptist church in which he is a trustee. In politics he is a Republican, though he takes no active part in politics.

Soon after coming to Wayeross he bought property and built a comfortable home on the outskirts of the city. What was then overgrown with forest pine is now within the city limits. He farms in a small way. It is in connection with his secret order work that he is best known. He is a Pythian. For fifteen years he was Secretary of the International Order of Twelve, Knights and Daughters of Tabor. For three years he has been Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of the same order and is held in high esteem by the brotherhood. He seeks to



DAVID DANIEL SIMPSON.

develop his people a spirit of co-operation and encourages them to work and economize. He believes that these things are essential to their progress.

Though beginning life in poverty and obscurity, Mr. Simpson has worked out for himself and family a measure of success of which no man need be ashamed. He has made a good living and at the same time established a home, reared and educated a family and has the respect and confidence of the best people of both races as he goes along.

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## LINTON STEPHENS PARKS

The pioneer colored dentist of Savannah, the first colored man to enter the profession in Georgia in fact, is Dr. Linton Stephens Parks, who has been in active practice for more than thirty-five years. He is recognized as a good citizen and has reared a family in such a way as to reflect credit upon himself and the race.

He was born in Lincoln County the year before the war, on Aug. 16, 1860. His parents were Harrison and Anna (Simsons) Parks. Beyond the fact his grandmother was Susan Tutt, he knows little of his early ancestry which is explained by the absence of written records with reference to it.

On January 1, 1889, Dr. Parks was married to Miss Mattie Carr, of Camden, South Carolina. They have four children, Earl A., Steward C., Tracy B., and Mattie Bell (Mrs. H. S. Garrett). He gave his children superior educational advantages. The three sons were all in service during the war.

Coming to school age at about the close of the war, Dr. Parks went to school in Augusta for five years, working as a drayman between terms. He kept this up until he was eighteen years of age, when he went into the office of Dr. Spears, a dentist of Augusta. Later when he came to Savannah he followed the same line and continued his studies in the office of Dr. A. H. Best, with whom he remained for ten years. He was then ready to open his own office which he did. He was successful from the beginning and when younger had



LINTON STEPHENS PARKS.

the largest practice in Savannah. From time to time, Dr. Parks has traveled quite a bit and has been over America. His favorite reading is History. He is an active member of the Episcopal church in which he is Junior Warden. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and Pythians.

In all his traveling Dr. Parks has seen no place he likes better than his home town, Savannah. He is of the opinion that all his people need is simple justice and fair treatment.

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## THEOPHILUS WALTON WELLS

Dr. Theophilus Walton Wells, a rising young physician of Waycross, is a native of Effingham County, having been born at Guyton, November 8, 1886. His father, Rev. W. H. Wells, is a minister in the A. M. E. Church, and his mother, before her marriage, was Miss Nancy Hudson. Dr. Wells is fortunate in having also a record of his grandparents on both sides. On the father's side they were David and Emily Wells, on the maternal side James and Lucilla Hudson.

Dr. Wells' home training was such as to arouse in him an ambition to make something of himself. Later he decided to take up medicine for his life work and shaped his education with that in view.

His elementary education was secured at various places where the family happened to reside at the time. He matriculated at Morris Brown where he took the Academic course which he completed in 1908. He then went to Howard University for his first year medical course, but put in the remaining three years of the course at Meharry where he won his M. D. degree in 1915.

Dr. Wells was married before completing his medical course, on September 8, 1913, to Miss Eliza A. Reddick, of Live Oak, Fla. Mrs. Wells was educated at Spelman Seminary. They have two children, Margaret E. and Theophilus W. Wells, Jr.

During his college days Dr. Wells spent his summer vacations at Waycross, where he had a position in the Post Office which was held open for him from year to year.

After his graduation in 1915 he returned to Waycross and began the practice which has steadily grown till it now keeps him busily engaged.

Like his father, he is a member of the A. M. E. Church, in which he is a steward. He is a Pythian and is local medical examiner for the Pythians.

Dr. Wells owns a home and other property in Waycross where he is well known and held in high esteem by the members of both races.

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## FANNIN SAFFORE BELCHER

Dr. Fannin Saffore Belcher, of Savannah, though working under the handicap of a rather frail body, has nevertheless won for himself a prominent place in his chosen profession. He is a native of Augusta, where he was born October 24, 1871. His father, the late Hon. Algernon S. Fletcher, was for a number of years prominent in Georgia politics. He was at one time Assistant Postmaster at Augusta, and for a long time Superintendent of Carriers. At an earlier age he had been in the U. S. Navy during the war and was on the historic Monongahela. He was a native of Abbeville, S. C. Dr. Belcher's mother was, before her marriage, Miss Sarah Stephens, of Edgefield, S. C.

As a boy Dr. Belcher attended Haines Normal and Industrial Institute at Augusta. He did his college work at Lincoln University, graduating in 1893 with the A. B. degree soon after he was twenty-one. Such was the state of his health at that time that he did not at once begin his medical course. He taught school the three following years at Milledgeville. He then matriculated at Howard University for his medical course and won his M. D. degree in 1901. He did hospital work being interne at the Freedman's Hospital, Washington, after his graduation. In 1902 he toured the west, partly for health and recuperation, and partly to investigate. He finally decided to locate in the South and in June, 1902, established himself in Savannah and began the practice. He has been



City Physician for five years and was recently re-elected to the same position. He is a member of both the South Atlantic and the State Medical Societies and was at one time President of the latter, and also chairman of the Board of Censors of the same organization.

He does a general practice and keeps attractive offices on West Broad Street. He takes an active part in those movements, whether social, religious or patriotic, looking to the progress and development of his people. He is a member of the Baptist Church in which he is a deacon. He is also President of the local branch of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians. In politics he is a Republican though he now takes but little part in politics.

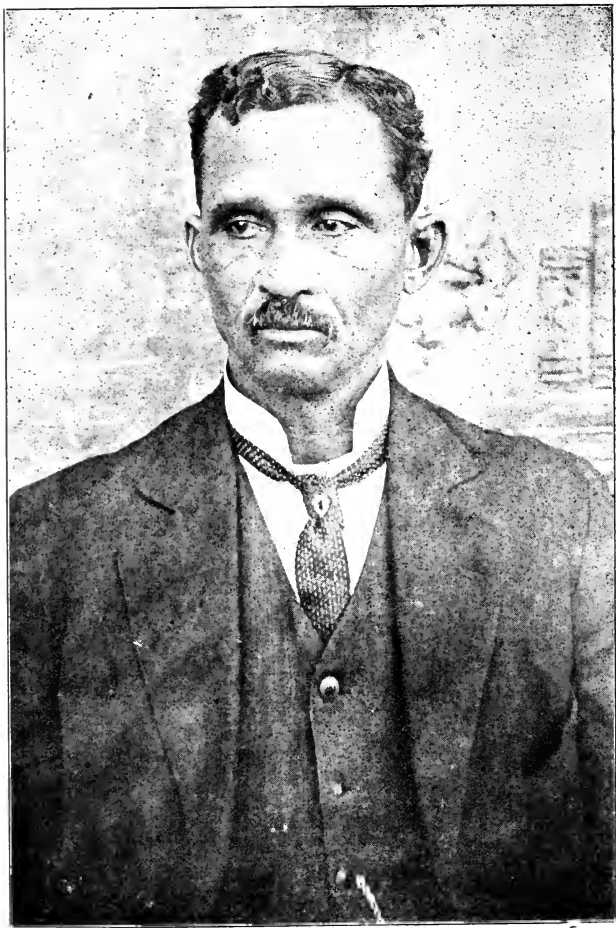
On May 19, 1905, Dr. Belcher was married to Miss Mamie E. Sheftall, of Savannah. They have four children, Fannin S., Jr., Ursuline B., Doris B. and Algernon S. Belcher.

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## ALBERT ROSS STARLING

Neither races nor nations rise or develop as a whole. It is all a matter of individual progress, and no race can rise above the level of the individuals of which the race is composed. It sometimes happens that the progress of a people is best illustrated for a given period by the life of some man cotemporary with that period. For instance, the life record of Rev. Albert Ross Starling, a successful Baptist minister of Waycross might be used to illustrate the progress of his people since the Emancipation, as he was born soon after the war and so represents in his own life and work practically the period of freedom. The date of his birth was April 10, 1867, and the place was in Brooks County. His parents were Joe and Martha (Calker) Starling. His maternal grandparents were Shiloh and Betsy Calker. As a boy young Starling worked on the farm.

His education was begun in the local schools of Brooks and Thomas Counties. In 1890 he finished the Normal Course of the International Correspondence Schools at Scranton, Pa., and



ALBERT ROSS STARLING.

in 1918 he finished the Theological Course of Princeton University at, Princeton, Ind., and received from the institution the D. D. degree. He had grown to manhood before he became active in the work of the Church and was a man of thirty years of age with a family before he dedicated himself to the preaching of the Gospel. In 1898 he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Elizabeth Baptist Church of Brooks County and has since made a record which has endeared him to his people. His first pastorate was the New Zion Baptist Church which he served one year and repaired the church. Since then he has served a number of other churches which have prospered under his administration. He preached at New Macedonia for twelve years, bought land and built a new house of worship. He pastored Centenary seven years and remodeled the church. St. Paul five years and built a new church. One of his most successful pastorates has been the New Bryant Baptist Church at Milltown where he is now (1919) in eleventh year. With his coming the congregation took on new life and a commodious new house of worship was erected. An historical sketch of this has been published under the direction of the pastor. In 1913 he accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of Waycross, where he resides. The house of worship has been completed and the congregation strengthened. Other churches he has served are Ray City and Pleasant Hill. Rev. Starling ministers to his people in every helpful way and grows in the esteem of his congregation from year to year. He is an effective speaker and has had a fruitful ministry. He is Clerk of the New Bryant Association and a trustee of Central City College.

As a young man and even in the early years of his ministry he taught school for more than a dozen years. More recently he has devoted his entire time to the work of the ministry. He is a regular attendant at the State and National Conventions. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Pythians, Odd Fellows and is State Auditor for the Eastern Star. His property interests are at Boston and in Brooks County. His experience as a teacher and preacher leads him to believe that the thing most needed by the race is efficient educational and religious work and leadership.

On December 22, 1887, Rev. Starling was married to Miss Julia Ashley, a daughter of Jim Ashley, of Brooks County. They have had eleven children: Mattie (Mrs. Pierce), Isaac P., who died in the service of his country at Camp Jackson; Bertha (Mrs. Adama), Mamie, Albert, Jr., Mildred, Herman, Pearl, Earle, Bernice and Gladys Starling. There are (1919) three grandchildren.

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## JOHN WESLEY THOMPSON

The Thompson family of Walton County has back of it an unusual record of accomplishment. The first known member of the family was Patrick Thompson, the grandfather of the subject of this biography. By industry and careful economy he worked out his freedom long before Emancipation. He had a son, Judge Marshall Thompson, who married Miss Sarah Vincent, who was afterwards known as Sallie Thompson. They brought up a family of children some of whom were born before the war and some after. One of his sons was the late Judge Marshall Thompson. Another was Louis Thompson, a prosperous farmer of Walton County. Still another son was John Wesley Thompson, now (1919) the popular pastor of Zion Baptist Church of Brunswick, Ga. He was born January 11, 1868, and grew up on the Walton County farm. At an early age he drifted into railroad work which he followed for a period of seventeen years. This carried him to various parts of the South. He became active in the work of the church in 1892. It was about four years later when he began to preach. In 1901 he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry by the Friendship Baptist Church and accepted the call of the Zion Baptist Church of Brunswick. He was successful from the beginning and has built up a great congregation. Beginning with a membership of only seven he now has fourteen hundred and has built three churches on the same site each time, replacing the old structure with one that was more commodious. In the eighteen years he has pastored this church he has baptized into its membership at least nine hundred. For



JOHN WESLEY THOMPSON.

sixteen years Rev. Thompson has pastored the First Church of St. Simons Island which has also greatly prospered under his administration. It has a membership of about five hundred. He has pastored the First African Baptist Church of Darien for five years and has there a membership of about eight hundred. Such was Rev. Thompson's standing and popularity in the denomination that in 1915 he was chosen Moderator of the Zion Baptist Association which position he has since held. He is a regular attendant at the meetings of the State and National Conventions.

On May 9, 1889, Rev. Thompson was married to Miss Ella Faison, of Goldsboro, N. C. They have two children, Irwin and Robert Lee Thompson.

Rev. Thompson's education was limited to the public schools of Walton County. The rest he has dug out for himself. Apart from voting he takes no active part in politics. He is a Mason and an Odd Fellow and also belongs to the Masonic Templars.

Rev. Thompson has sought to organize his work along progressive lines and tries to lead his people in the right direction. Apart from his own churches he has but little time for outside work. He owns a comfortable home at Brunswick. He has the largest congregation in the city, white or colored.

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## MARCUS BERNARD HUTTO

As an illustration of the great progress which the race has made since Emancipation the youth of some of the men who are coming into prominence in the business and professional life of the race should not be overlooked. When one finds a man still on the sunny side of thirty, with a college education, already established in a profession which itself required four years of work to master, one may take for granted the excellence of the early training and the individual ability of the subject.

Dr. Marcus Bernard Hutto now (1919) a practicing dentist at Brunswick, was born at Bainbridge, April 20, 1892. He

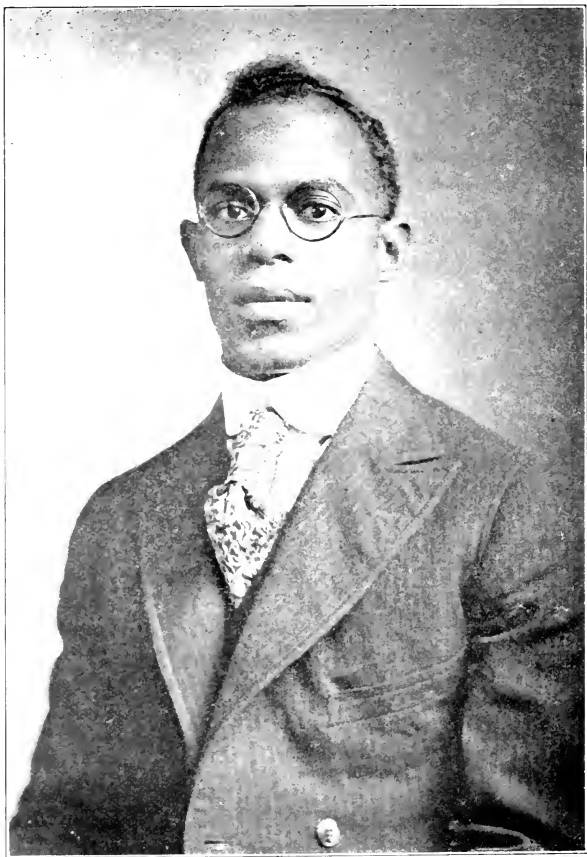
is a son of Prof. G. R. Hutto, of that city, a story of whose life and work appears elsewhere in this volume, and in connection with which, what is known of the family history has been set down.

Young Hutto growing up in a home where books were plentiful and the father himself an educator, had unusual advantages of which he seems to have made the most. When ready for college he entered the State College at Savannah, where he took his College Course and for a trade shoemaking. Later he matriculated at Meharry for his dental course and won his D. D. S. degree in 1918, winning at the same time a gold medal for the highest average. During his vacations he spent his summer vacations in the Pullman service and was thus able to see a great deal more of the United States and Canada than would have otherwise been possible. In 1919 he located at Brunswick where he has an attractive place on Gloucester Street. Apart from his professional books, his favorite reading is history. Speaking from his own experience as well as from observation, which has been rather extensive for a man of his age, Dr. Hutto believes that if the people of the race can get the right sort of an education and are given a square deal that they will work out the rest in a satisfactory way. He is a useful member of the Baptist Church. In the secret orders he is affiliated with the Pythians.

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## MARTIN LUTHER WALTON

In the early days of freedom, it was not unusual for a young man studying for an education to spend years and years working his way through college and into one of the professions. This was made necessary by the lack of means and the limited educational facilities of the day. It is encouraging now, however, to find young men, still on the sunny side of thirty, through and done with their professional courses, and ready for action. One of these progressive young men is Dr. Martin Luther Walton, the only colored dentist at Thomasville.



MARTIN LUTHER WALTON.



He was born June 29, 1893. His father, Julius Caesar Walton, was a minister of the A. M. E. Church and a teacher. His mother, Annie Mitchell Walton, still survives (1919). She was a daughter of Patsy Jeffers. Dr. Walton's paternal grandparents were Henry and Clarissa Walton.

Dr. Walton's parents were ambitious for him and, being themselves intelligent, gave him the best of training in the home. He attended school at Thomasville till ready for college, when he matriculated at the State College at Savannah, where he took the normal course and the first year collegiate, and learned shoemaking as a trade. He went to Meharry for his dental course, winning his D. D. S. degree in 1918. He had made an excellent record, winning the gold medal for dental efficiency and was class orator of a class of 37. In the latter years of his course, he was in the Pullman service during vacations which gave him an opportunity to see a good deal of the country. After completing his dental course, he returned to his home town and began to practice in 1918 and during the first year's work has already built up one of the largest dental practices in Georgia. He is interested in civic work of all kinds and is quite an asset to his community.

He is a member of the Methodist church and a teacher in its Sunday School. He has a splendid tenor voice, and sings in the choir.

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## BINGLEY SOLOMON HANNAH

South Carolina has given to Georgia a number of strong men in both the business and professional life of the State. One of these who has come to serve his people in a large way, especially in South Georgia, is Rev. Bingley Solomon Hannah, who was born in Williamsburg County, S. C., just after the close of the war, on January 21, 1866. He was the son of a preacher Rev. Gabriel Hannah, and his wife, Nancy. The boy lost his father when he was only seven years of age and was reared by



BINGLEY SOLOMON HANNAH.

an uncle and aunt. He remembers that his father was ambitious for him and that he was encouraged by those who brought him up. Owing to the hard conditions which prevailed during his boyhood days, he was denied the opportunity of a college education and his schooling was limited to the public schools. As a boy and young man he worked on the farm. As he was growing up there developed among the colored people a movement to return to Africa. His folks sold their property in South Carolina and came to Georgia with a view to earning some more money before sailing. In the meantime the rage for Africa blew over and the family settled down in Georgia.

Our subject came into the active work of the church at eighteen, just as he was merging into manhood. A couple of years later came the call to the orphan boy, now a man, to preach the Gospel. He yielded himself finally to the Divine leadership and joined the Conference sitting at Albany in 1894, Bishop Grant presiding. With characteristic energy the young man went to work and has since devoted practically his whole time to the ministry. His promotion from a mission to district work was rapid and was won by devotion and consecration to the work. His first appointment was the McDonald Mission which he served one year. The following year he went to Dupont where he purchased land and began the erection of a house of worship. The next three years were spent on the Milltown Mission and Circuit where he built one church and bought land for another. He pastored Lowndes County Circuit three years and Adel one year. From Adel he was sent to the Brunswick Station three years and from there to the Bethel Station, Savannah, for two years where he built a parsonage. He was then promoted to the district and presided over the Savannah District for five years. He was then sent to the Brunswick District for a few months after which he was transferred to the Swainsboro District, where he finished out two years. From that work he came to the St. Paul Station, Valdosta in 1915 where the work has prospered under his administration. In fact Rev. Hannah has had a fruitful ministry wherever he has gone. He is the friend and supporter of educa-

tion and is a trustee of both Morris Brown and the Central Park Normal at Savannah. Indeed he was one of the founders of the latter institution. He keeps himself informed on political matters and freely advises his people. He has attended three General Conferences of his church and is a prominent figure in the Annual Conferences. He is a constant reader of the best literature. Next after the Bible and the current news he prefers History and Biography. It is to be regretted that no accurate record of the number of people he has brought into the church is available. Rev. Hannah married when young, having been joined to Miss Sarah C. Bostie, of South Carolina, on Dec. 18, 1884. Of the six children born to them, four are now living. They are Henry B., Nancy E., Essie I., and Lydia E. Hannah. They have been given the educational advantages which the father lacked in his young days. Rev. Hannah believes that not only personal success but the progress of the race as well, depends upon the right sort of education. His property interests are at Savannah and Brunswick. He belongs to the Masons and Odd Fellows.

Rev. Hannah served for three years as Grand Secretary of the Benevolent Society known as the St. Joseph Aid Society. He was then elected Grand Chief, a position which he has held for the past eighteen years. Rev. Hannah says that this institution is doing much for the uplift of humanity.

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## JACKSON SEPHAS STRIPLING

Rev. Jackson Sephas Stripling, now (1919) stationed at Brunswick, is the leading minister of the M. E. Connection in South East Georgia. He is a native of Wayne County, and was born October 16, 1867. His father, Rev. Virgil Stripling, was also a Methodist minister. He was a son of Jack and Anne Joyce. The mother of our subject was Laura Stripling. She was brought to Georgia from Virginia before Emancipation.

Early in life young Stripling determined to secure an education. He made the most of the Wayne County public schools,

such as they were, and then went to Dorchester Academy in Liberty County. He then matriculated at Clark University, Atlanta, where he won his A. B. degree in 1899. He also did his theological work in Atlanta. Young Stripling worked on the farm till he was a grown man. At about the age of eighteen he became active in the work of the church. Even before this and very early in life he had felt that his life work would be that of the ministry.

In 1891 he joined the conference at Waynesboro under Bishop Berry. His first appointment was the Rocky Ford Circuit which he served for three years. He was successful from the very beginning of his ministry. At Rocky Ford he repaired two churches and went from there to the Waynesboro Station for two years, where the church was repaired. After that he served the Statesboro circuit two years, built a church, repaired another and raised \$135.00 towards another. He was then promoted to the LaGrange District over which he presided for six years. At the end of that time he was appointed to Asbury Station, Savannah, where he preached for five years. The church property was greatly improved under his administration and property to the value of \$2,400 purchased. From Savannah Dr. Stripling was sent to Grace Church, Brunswick, where the work has prospered under his hand. In fact all the years of his ministry have been fruitful. Looking back over his career he remembers with peculiar gratitude the influence of his sainted father on his life. Rev. Stripling taught school for a number of years, and made for himself an enviable record as a teacher. His favorite reading next after the Bible is history.

Dr. Stripling's property interests are in Savannah, LaGrange and in Wayne County. He believes the greatest need of the race can be summed up in two words: Education and religion.

On September 5, 1897, Dr. Stripling married Miss Lucy Spaulding, of North Carolina, who was a teacher. They have one daughter, Alberta, now Mrs. Griffin.

## JOSEPH WINTHROP HOLLEY

Rev. Joseph Winthrop Holley, A. B., A. M., D. D., President of the Albany Bible and Manual Training School, is a pioneer in a phase of educational work which is growing in favor and is sure of wider recognition as the years go by. Dr. Holley, in his early ministry, had a vision of a school in which the forces making for intelligence should at the same time and in the same way make for character. Perhaps the most popular term for what he had in mind is Christian education. He saw the necessity also of making education productive. For want of a better name we call this Industrial education. The Albany Bible and Manual Training School correlates all these—intelligence, character and efficiency and seeks to turn out men and women fitted to take their places in the community as home builders and citizens.

Dr. Holley is a native of South Carolina, having been born at Winnsboro, April 2, 1872. His parents were George and Mary (Liles) Holley.

Early in life he attracted the attention of some wealthy people at the North who made a liberal education possible for him. He laid the foundation of his education at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. Later he matriculated at Lincoln University where he won his Bachelor's degree in 1900. Two years later he completed the Theological course at the same institution with the S. T. B. degree. Since that time both the A. M. and D. D. Degrees have been conferred on him in recognition of his attainments and the service rendered in both the religious and educational fields. In addition to his own limited earnings during his school days, the money was supplied largely by Miss Caroline Hozard and her father and brother, R. G. Hozard. The manner in which the money was advanced was repaid in full and with interest reveals the character of Dr. Holley. As a matter of history it should be stated that this attitude about an obligation concerning which there was no outside pressure, created in the minds of his friends an impression which in later years made possible the enlargement of his work. Coming out of college Dr. Holley's first pastorate was at Macon, where he preached for ten years. In recent



JOSEPH WINTHROP HOLLEY.

years, such have been the claims upon his time that he has been compelled to give up the regular pastorate.

In 1904, in the midst of the heavy Negro population in and around Albany, he established the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute which has grown to an enrollment of five hundred with a faculty of sixteen. The work is a monument to the energy and capacity of Dr. Holley. Beginning with just an opportunity and his own faith he has built an institution with a plant valued at seventy thousand dollars and a monthly payroll of more than fifteen hundred dollars. The measure of his work, however, cannot be stated in figures. It is expressed in lives. In 1917 the State Legislature voted to make the institution a Normal and Agricultural School.

Dr. Holley stands high in the councils of the Presbyterian church and has frequently represented his Presbytery in the General Assembly. He has twice been chosen a Commissioner to the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, once in New York and once (1913) at Aberdeen, Scotland. This and his school work has given him an opportunity for considerable travel both at home and abroad.

He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted, "By the accumulation of property, the education of our children, the building of character based upon Christianity, and standing up manfully for what is right and just. These things must be worked out with the co-operation of the better classes of both races."

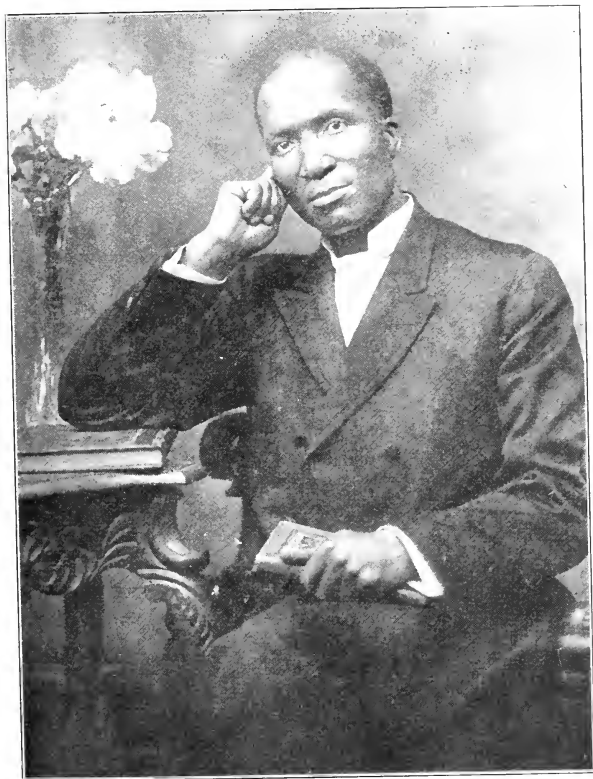
On August 14, 1890, Dr. Holley was married to Miss Daisy Lipsey, of Chester, S. C. They have one child, Dr. John Calvin Holley, of Orangeburg, S. C.

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## BENJAMIN JAMES JACKSON

One of the most energetic and one of the best informed men in the A. M. E. Connection in Georgia is Rev. Benjamin James Jackson, now (1919) stationed at Brunswick. He has worked and preached in a number of states and thus gained much practical knowledge in addition to his college education for





BENJAMIN JAMES JACKSON.

which he made a heroic struggle. He is a native of the sister state of South Carolina, having been born at New Market in Greenwood County, June 9, 1874. His parents were Robert and Martha (Allen) Jackson, both slaves before Emancipation. Robert Jackson was a son of Solomon and Lula Jackson. Solomon Jackson lived to the ripe old age of nearly a hundred years. Speaking of his parents, Dr. Jackson says, "Being slaves, they were uneducated, but were quite religious and were highly respected throughout Greenwood County. Dr. Jackson's maternal grandparents were Henry and Sylvia Allen. Their history furnishes us a glimpse of the terrors of human slavery, for Sylvia was sold away from her husband to a speculator before her daughter Martha was born. After many years her former owner bought her back and there was a glorious reunion. It was in the midst of memories and traditions like this that our subject grew up. He laid the foundation of his education at the Mt. Lebanon public school. Later he went to Brewer Normal at Greenwood. Here the boy showed his mettle. He says, "While in College at Brewer I worked on the farm. I would rise at four o'clock and work till six. I then walked five miles to school in all sorts of weather, rain sleet or snow." Of course a boy with that sort of spirit succeeded. With his growth to manhood and with travel, came wider visions of what a man ought to be. As new fields opened up he occupied them to the best of his ability and has risen to a place of real leadership. After college he went into insurance work at which he was successful. This carried him to various states and gave him an excellent opportunity to improve himself.

Feeling called to the work of the Gospel ministry he joined the North Mississippi Conference at Rosedale, Miss., in 1902, and was appointed to the Sunflower Mission which he served one year. He was successful from the beginning and rose rapidly from mission charges to station work. He pastored the Tutwiler Station in 1904 and from there to the Tunica Circuit where he remained for two years. Here he built a new church in nine months. In 1907 he was promoted to the Jonestown Station. His father died during that year and he was transferred to the South Carolina Conference and pastored the

Union Station. In 1908 his mother passed away. After that he served the Mt. Olive Station and the Manning Station. In 1912 he was transferred to Georgia and began his ministry in the State at Pelham Station. After that he preached at the Quitman Station. Here he entertained the So. Georgia Annual Conference the second time. He then went to Bainbridge Station and is now in his first year on the important work of the Brunswick Station, where a new house of worship is being planned. Two thousand two hundred and thirty-six dollars was raised in April, 1919.

Dr. Jackson has had a fruitful ministry. He was a member of 1916 General Conference and during the war took a leading part in all war activities. He is also a Trustee of Morris Brown. He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by a better understanding between the races. He emphasizes co-operation and a spirit of mutual helpfulness and would like to have the white people see more of the church life and school work of the race.

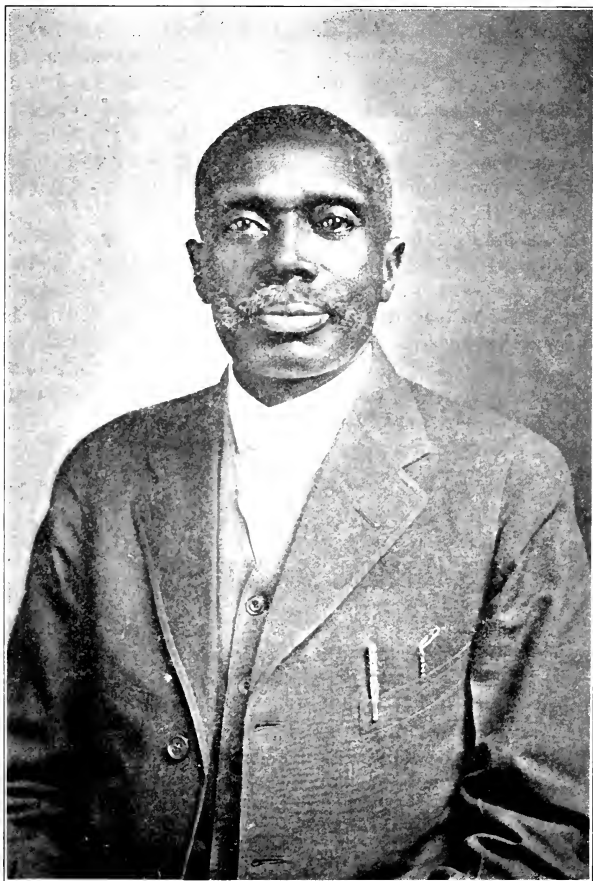
He graduated from the Theological Department of Princeton University, receiving the degree of D. D. May, 1919.

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## SAMUEL H. WILSON

In the prosperous little city of Thomasville is a successful physician and druggist, who came to Georgia from North Carolina. The story of his rise from poverty and obscurity was recently told in the following sketch:

“From a one-room log cabin in North Carolina to one of the most successful physicians in the United States, with a large practice, demonstrates the fact that success is in the individual and not in the time or place of birth. This has been clearly proven by Dr. S. H. Wilson, of Thomasville, Ga., who has reached the hearts of the people, because of his ability and worth. Dr. Wilson has made his place in this country by study, by hard work, by politeness, by thrift, by push, by pluck. He was born of slave parents, near Warsaw, N. C., Sept. 6, 1866. Shortly after his Emancipation the father of this



SAMUEL H. WILSON.

successful physician purchased a small farm, adjoining that of the man who had just relinquished his claim as owner. He set up housekeeping for himself, and decided to live and eat under his own roof. It was in this cabin that the young boy was started on his education through the "Webster Blue Back Speller." He learned the names and use of the letters of the alphabet. The parents were anxious that their children should obtain an education, hence an effort was made to establish a school, by securing a teacher, but it had never dawned upon Mr. Wilson that it was necessary to have a place to hold the school. So when the teacher came, the school was established under a large oak tree and so remained until they could get some kind of a building. A log school house was erected, and it is useless to attempt to describe the seats. The school house later became Wilson's Chapel. Young Wilson was among the first to enter the school which had moved to Wilson's Chapel, and he was found at the head of his class. The old people observing how rapidly he advanced, said "That boy is going to be a preacher." It had not dawned on their minds that there would ever be a negro doctor. It looked as if his education was to be blocked, because when he reached his tenth year and could spell "baker" his father decided that he was educated and took him to work on the farm. He remained on the farm, making a good first class farm hand until he reached his majority, twenty-one years. He thought that he needed more education, in fact decided that he needed all the education, and started out to get it. He realized that he had this to do, and he rolled up his sleeves and went to work. Services were rendered in South Carolina saw mills, Southern Alabama Turpentine camps, North Carolina new railroads, Philadelphia docks as stevedore, with which to get money to enter school. When he had sufficient money to do so, he entered the State Normal School at Fayetteville, N. C., in January, 1888, remaining there until 1893, when he finished at the head of his class. Two years were spent in hard work and in 1895 he entered Shaw University, and remained until 1902, when, with honors, he graduated from the department of medicine and pharmacy. Now a full fledged physician, he sought location, and found his way to Thomasville, Georgia, where he has since resided.

In June, 1902, he passed the Georgia State Board, and opened his office for the practice of his chosen profession. Dr. Wilson is in the front rank. He has made many friends among all the citizens of Georgia, and is one of the best known men in this section of country. He is the senior member of the drug store, known as Wilson and Terry. In things that mean the development and uplift of the people, Dr. Wilson is found, and he is interested in the young people, the school work, and his work has won for him the admiration of those connected with the various institutions. He is a genius. During his practice in Thomasville he has accumulated some property and owns a lovely home."

The name of Dr. Wilson's father was Nelson H. Wilson, who was a son of Samuel and Nancy Wilson. His mother's name was Cheney. Dr. Wilson was married on December 18, 1907, to Miss Mattie E. Bates, of Covington, Georgia. She was educated at Atlanta University. He is a Mason, a Pythian and an Odd Fellow. He recalls with gratitude the influence and helpfulness of an older brother. Dr. Wilson taught school in North Carolina three or four years before beginning the study of medicine.

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## MARK ANTHONY CASSELS

The young men of the race are rapidly coming to the front not only in business circles but in professional life as well. This is illustrated by the career of Mark Anthony Cassels, D. D. S., of Brunswick, Secretary of Brunswick Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association. Though now residing at Brunswick he is a native of Liberty County, having been born at the historic old town of Dorchester, on October 18, 1892. His father, Mark Anthony, a farmer, is still living (1919). His mother before her marriage was Miss Phyllis Benjamin. Dr. Cassels' grandparents were Cephus and Sophia Cassels, his maternal grandparents were Anthony and Nancy Benjamin.

Dr. Cassels' father was a minister. As a boy young Cassels worked on the farm. He laid the foundation for his education



MARK ANTHONY CASSELS.

at the Beach Institute, Savannah, Ga., and at Dorchester Academy in Liberty County, which has done so much in that section of Georgia to advance the cause of education. He served one year as principal at Moose Academy, Dorchester, Ga. From Dorchester he passed to Walden University and from there he went to Meharry Dental College for his dental education, where he won his D. D. S. in 1917. In 1916, at the completion of a three year course, he received his diploma from the Bible Class of the Y. M. C. A. of Meharry Medical College. Dr. Cassels has never been afraid nor ashamed to work. In his early student days he earned money for his tuition as a lumber checker, later he ran a pressing club and while pursuing his dental course spent his summer vacations in hotel and Pullman work. The work on the Pullman cars gave him a rare opportunity to see much of the country, traveling extensively in the United States and Canada, as well as coming in contact with others which he reckons as one of most helpful influences which has come into his life. He is of a social turn of mind and is a splendid mixer. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Masons and the Pythians. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church. His favorite line of reading is history. Dr. Cassels is a stockholder in The Laborer's Penny Savings and Loan Co., of Waycross, Ga., owned and controlled by negroes. He is an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

After completing his dental course in 1917, he located at Valdosta where he practiced till the fall of 1918, when he moved to Brunswick where he has since lived and practiced his chosen profession. He still maintains his Valdosta connections however in association with Dr. Elliott.

Apart from his office equipment, Dr. Cassels property interests are in Savannah, Dorchester and Waycross. He has observed conditions in both city and country and believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted through Christian education and by efficient teachers and preachers and equal rights of citizenship.

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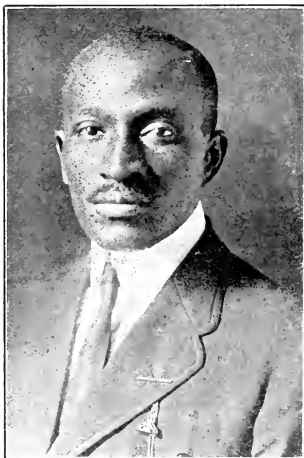


# ROBERT RUFUS ROBINSON

North Carolina has from the time of the Revolution to the present time contributed to Georgia some of her strongest men of both races, in business and professional lines. Dr. Robert Rufus Robinson, a rising physician of Brunswick, is a native of the "Old North State," having been born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, May —, 1874. His father was James Robinson, who was one of the largest property or land owners in Halifax County and a native of Virginia. His mother was Mourning Robinson, a native of North Carolina.

Young Robinson grew up on the farm and was accustomed to do all kinds of farm work. He attended the district school and later went to Brick Agricultural and Normal School at Enfield, finishing the second year normal. He then matriculated at the A. & M. College, Greensboro, where he worked through the college preparatory course and remained in the same institution till he won Bachelor of Agriculture degree. Dr. Robinson began his career as an educator in Halifax County, N. C., and remained in the school room as a teacher for ten years. While in college his summer vacations were usually spent at the North working so as to earn money to help out in the following year's expense.

He taught at the Claremont Collegiate and Industrial Institute (Va.) for one year and was Teacher at the Kowaliga Academic Institute at Kowaliga, Ala., for three years. He taught agriculture with Prof. Miller at Long Island, New York, for one year. Such had been the character of his work that he attracted the attention of Dr. Washington and in 1908 was called to Tuskegee as professor of Agriculture, where he remained till 1914. Feeling that the medical profession offered a large field for useful service and at the same time gave him an opportunity to work out his own ideas more independently, he resigned his position at Tuskegee in 1914, and matriculated at Meharry Medical College where he won his M. D. degree in 1918. In September of that year he began the practice of Medicine at Brunswick, where he is rapidly forging to the front in his chosen line of work.



ROBERT RUFUS ROBINSON AND WIFE.

Earlier in life he was more or less active in politics and was at one time elected Justice of the Peace and Precinct Chairman. But in recent years has been too busily engaged to give much attention to political matters.

On Jan. 7, 1912, Dr. Robinson was married to Miss Emma H. Hill, of Philadelphia. Mrs. Robinson is a daughter of the late Bishop Abner Hill, of the Reformed A. M. E. Church. Her mother was Mrs. Cornelia Hill. Both parents were free born and were both college graduates. So Mrs. Robinson had unusual advantages. She was educated at St. Augustine College and Drexel Institute and is a graduate registered nurse from Polyclinic Hospital at Philadelphia. She was active and helpful in various phases of war work. Dr. and Mrs. Robinson have one son, Robert Robinson.

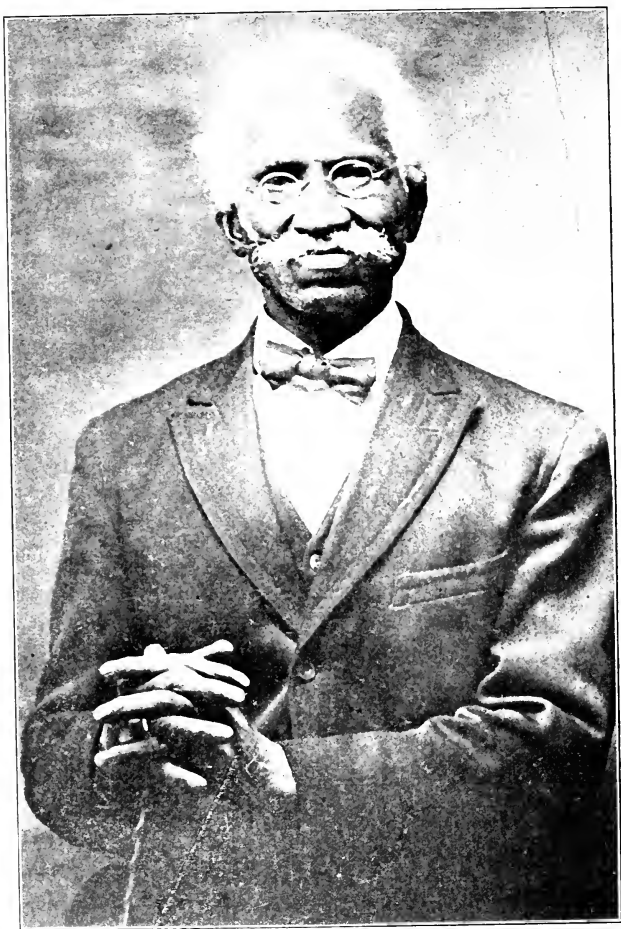
While in college Dr. Robinson's athletics were confined largely to baseball. His favorite reading is History. He is a member of the Baptist Church and is never too busy to take an active part in church and Sunday Schools. He was formerly more or less active in the work of the secret orders and benevolent societies. His principal property interests are in North Carolina. He believes that the real progress of the race depends on Industrial Training.

(NOTE.—Since the above was written Dr. Robinson has moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he is building a splendid practice. Mrs. Robinson has been appointed visiting nurse for the Tuberculosis Association and is rendering excellent service.)

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## ALEXANDER SCRANTON ROBERTS

The young people of the present generation whose parents were born since the war, living in their own homes, attending public schools and even colleges and worshipping in well appointed churches of their own can hardly realize the conditions which prevailed in the memory of some men who are still living. Among these patriarchs of the race who had grown to manhood before Emancipation and who has seen the most



ALEXANDER SCRANTON ROBERTS.

marvelous changes take place is Rev. Alexander Scranton Roberts, of Brunswick. He is affectionately called Father Roberts and is more widely known by that name than the one which his parents gave him.

He was born on Cumberland Island, Sept. 22, 1842. His father, Dick Roberts, was a Christian man and himself a preacher after the order of the slavery days. His mother was Hannah Roberts. She was a daughter of Bill Williams. Father Roberts' grandfather on his father's side was Bob Roberts. Under ordinary conditions the slave was not permitted to learn to read or write. In this our subject was more fortunate as a youngster, he was a house boy and was taught by his mistress. Later he was sent to the fields. He was converted during the war and soon felt called to preach, but did not enter upon the active work of the ministry until after the surrender. When the Federal Army reached Georgia he joined its forces and was at Macon when the war closed. He had learned the carpenter trade and was a skillful workman which was greatly to his advantage in building churches. He was licensed to preach in 1868 and for more than fifty years has been going in and out before his people. He has had a fruitful ministry and has baptised thousands of new members. He has seen many of these grow to manhood and womanhood and established families of their own and has in time had the privilege of bringing their children into the church. In 1872 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the St. Mary's Baptist Church which he served as pastor for more than ten years. During that time he resided at St. Marys, though he has lived at Brunswick for more than thirty years. His principal work as a preacher has been in Camden, Glynn, McIntosh and Ware Counties. He also pastored in Fernandina, Fla. He has been preaching at Shiloh Baptist Church, Brunswick, for more than thirty years.

During that time it has been necessary to rebuild the church twice to accommodate the increasing congregation which has grown from one hundred and fifty to more than eleven hundred. For twelve years Father Roberts was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sapelo Island. A number of other churches have had him for shorter pastorates. He was Moderator of the

Zion Association for twelve years and is now a member of the Executive Board of the State Convention. For years he has cut loose from business interests and has devoted his whole time to the work of the ministry. His favorite reading is the Bible. Out of a long and rich experience he believes that the material progress of the race depends first on education and after that the accumulation of property and means. He belongs to the Masons and the Good Samaritans. He has property at Brunswick and in Camden County.

Father Roberts has been married four times. His first marriage was in 1862, to Miss Lavina Underwood. She lived for only about a year. His second wife to whom he was married in 1867 was, before her marriage, Miss Cornelia Smith. She lived for fifteen years. After her death he was married to Miss Julia Ford, who lived for twenty-seven years, when she passed away. In 1913 he was married to Miss Julia McGriff. Of the seven children born to Father Roberts, three are living. They are Mary (Mrs. Hicks), Henry Seranton and Rachel (Mrs. Whitus).

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## WALTER THEODORE FORD

Dr. Walter Theodore Ford now (1919) the only colored dentist of Cordele, after seeing a great deal of this country and of Canada, as well, has settled down to the practice of his profession right in the heart center of Georgia, and has before him the promise of a successful career. He was born at St. Joseph, Mo., on January 31, 1890, but the family moved away from there while he was but a child. His father was Lewis Ford and his mother's name was Sallie. Before her marriage she was a Paschal. Her mother was Amanda Paschal. Lewis Ford was a son of Sam and Emily Ford.

Our subject grew up at FortValley and laid the foundation for his education at the Fort Valley High School. He not only made a good record as a student but also developed considerable mechanical skill. Pres. Hunt encouraged him. His mother was also ambitious for him and almost from childhood he had a de-



WALTER THEODORE FORD.

sire to succeed. He matriculated at Atlanta University for his college course. This was a period of uncertainty with the young man, but he made a splendid record as a student and was popular with the boys. He played first base on the college baseball team. Later he entered the Medical Department of Western Reserve University with a view to fitting himself for the Medical profession, but ultimately decided on dentistry. Accordingly he matriculated at Meharry College where he remained till he won his D. D. S. degree in 1917. The money for his college and professional courses was earned largely during the summer vacations, first at hotel work and later in the Pullman service. These things took him to the great centers of population where he gained knowledge and experience such as cannot be had from books.

After his graduation he spent the rest of 1917 at Buffalo doing some special work. Early in 1918 he located at Cordele where he is in the midst of a splendid field and where he has already built up a good practice.

Dr. Ford is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Pythians and Odd Fellows. He has had unusual opportunity to observe conditions North and South, in the city and in the country and believes that locally, at least, the greatest need of the race is better educational equipment. He has already made for himself a place in the professional and social life of Cordele.

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## CARROLL CASSIUS STRICKLAND

As a rule the medical profession attracts to itself the strong men of the race, the men who have the courage and the patience to dig out their education and professional training frequently in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. This is illustrated by the record of Dr. Carroll Cassius Strickland, of Valdosta, who though still on the sunny side of forty has already made for himself a place in his chosen profession.

He is one of the men who have not found it necessary to leave their native county in order to succeed. Right among the peo-



ple who understand him and who know his character and ability the best he has established himself and has worked out a measure of success of which even an older man need not be ashamed.

He was born in Lowndes County, March 14, 1882. His father, Eli Strickland, was a farmer. His mother, Rebecca Strickland, is still living (1919). On February 10, 1907, Dr. Strickland was married to Miss Elizabeth Odom, of Nashville, Tenn. She passed away on April 20, 1909, and on June 15, 1910, Dr. Strickland was married to Miss Ethel Hamilton, of Thomasville.

She taught school before her marriage and was educated at Tallahassee. They have two children, Carroll Hamilton Strickland, and Marjorie Inez Strickland.

Growing up on his father's farm young Strickland went to the rural school and when ready for college to the State College at Savannah. Here he learned along with his literary course, the painter's trade, which he used to advantage during his summer vacations in earning money to pursue his studies. He matriculated at Meharry for his Medical Course and won his M. D. degree in 1908. During the vacations of his medical course he worked on the Pullman cars and thus had a rare opportunity to see every part of the country. He remains grateful for his happy and helpful home surroundings and the influences which made him ambitious even in his boyhood days. After completing his course he practiced in Nashville for one year and then located in Valdosta, where he is now firmly established in the professional, business and soeial life of that city. Though not active he is a Republican in politics. He belongs to the Pythians and is a member of the State Medical Association. He is identified with the Christian denomination. He owns in addition to a comfortable home at Valdosta, farm property in Lowndes County. From an unusual opportunity which he has had to observe conditions, he is of the opinion that the greatest need of the race is the right sort of education.

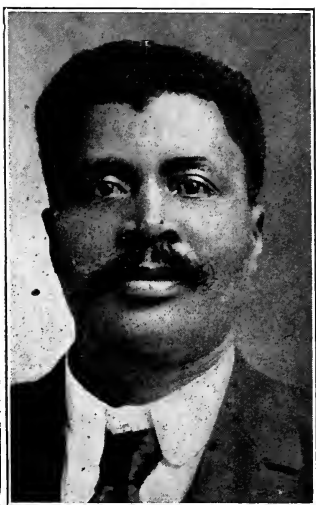
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## LEWIS CHARLEY PIERCE

Rev. Lewis Charley Pierce, who is one of the vigorous steady men of the race and of the Baptist denomination in South Georgia, resides at Cordele. Though denied the opportunity of a college education he has nevertheless rendered effective service in the Kingdom and seeks to do with all his might what his hands find to do. He was born in Dougherty County during the war between the states, on Feb. 27, 1863. His father, Henry Pierce, though unlearned, was also a minister after the old order. His mother's name was Louisa Pierce.

Young Pierce spent his boyhood and young manhood days on the farm and developed there a strong robust body which has stood well the strain of the years. He experienced the new birth at the tender age of thirteen and early became active in the work of the church. Almost before he was grown, came the unmistakable call to preach the Gospel. He was licensed by the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and on October 21, 1888, was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry. As a boy he had attended Normal School at Albany. His first pastorate was New Provident Church in Berrien County, which he pastored for eight years and built a church. During his whole career he has been a builder of churches. He pastored at Worth two years and at Sibley two years, having built one church at the latter place. He served the Arabi Church for six years and repaired the church building. Twenty-eight years ago he was called to the Mt. Zion Church at Cordele, which he has served continuously since. He first repaired the church and later pulled down the old house and built a new one.

Beginning with a membership of forty he now has a congregation of three hundred and fifty. Among the other churches where he has enjoyed successful pastorates may be mentioned St. James, Valdosta, where he served for a period of eleven years and built a church which was blown down and rebuilt; New Prospect, Stockton, he served for six years; Shiloh, Waycross, for two years and built a new church, New Mt. Zion, Ray, for six years, where he built a church, Spring Creek, Houston County, Friendship, Macon, five years, built a church; Mt. Zion, Coffee



LEWIS CHARLEY PIERCE.

County, six years, built one church. In addition to the Cordele Church he is now serving St. Luke in Sumter County. He has had a fruitful ministry.

In January, 1884, Rev. Pierce was married to Miss Annie Malone. Of the five children born to them none survive.

Rev. Pierce is Vice Moderator of the Gum Creek Association, and usually attends the State Convention as well as the National Convention. He is Chairman of the Second District Union Meeting. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Masons and Supreme Circle.

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## RICHMOND RANDOLPH MOBLEY

Modern insurance has developed a high type of business man. It requires application and diligence, energy and perseverance. There is scarcely another field of endeavor in which a man is more dependent upon his own individual resources and personal initiative. The man makes the field and not the field the man. These facts are illustrated by the success of Prof. Richmond Randolph Mobley, Superintendent for the N. C. Mutual of the Valdosta District, where he began with a weekly debit of three dollars which has grown to a hundred and fifty dollars per week.

Mr. Mobley was born at Mobley's Crossing in Pulaski County on the 18th of June, 1871. His father, Richmond Mobley, was a farmer. His mother was Rachel (Pope) Mobley. She was a daughter of Lonis Lndaway. Young Mobley lost his father at the age of two and a couple of years later the mother passed away, leaving the boy completely orphaned at four years of age. He was brought up by his older sister. His boyhood and young manhood days were spent on the farm and in the turpentine woods. He attended school at Hawkinsville. He was an ambitious boy. One of his teachers, Prof. Moore, was peculiarly helpful and inspired the orphan boy to work and to struggle for the best equipment for his work in life. Later he went to the State College where he took the Normal Course as soon as he was able to secure license he began teaching and from that

point found the way easier. His first work as a teacher was at Abbeville where he taught for two years. Later he returned to the same position for two years more. He taught at Lumber City for six years and in Franklin County for two years. This was followed by four years in Dodge County.

Mr. Mobley<sup>\*</sup> has done considerable literary and journalistic work. While at the State College he started the College Journal which is still run. He traveled awhile for the Atlanta Independent and was at one time correspondent for the Southern Standard.

In 1914 he identified himself with the N. C. Mutual and with but little previous experience was sent to the Valdosta District where he has since resided. The development of the work in this section is the result of his efforts. There has been steady growth and progress from the beginning.

Mr. Mobley is a Mason and belongs to the Baptist Church. From boyhood he has been active in the work of the Sunday School and churches. Before moving to Valdosta he was for seven years assistant clerk of the Middle Georgia Association and for five years clerk. He is a deacon and a trustee. His property interests are at Valdosta, Abbeville and Lumber City.

On October 29, 1899, he was married to Miss Sylvia A. Dozier, a daughter of Thomas Dozier, of Thomson. She was formerly a teacher, having been educated at Payne College. They have one child, Clyde A. Mobley.

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## JAMES BENJAMIN STEVENS

The success which has been won by Dr. James Benjamin Stevens, of Valdosta, in his chosen profession, demonstrates the importance of choosing one's profession or trade early in life. Even as a boy he wanted to be a doctor and when he inquired of his mother whether men were born as doctors or whether they had to learn it like other things, he was told that it required education and years of preparation. This did not discourage the boy, but rather gave him a new incentive to do his best while working out his education which it was necessary for him to do



JAMES BENJAMIN STEVENS.

alone as his parents were not in position to help him financially.

Dr. Stevens was born in Liberty County, March 4, 1869. His father, Benjamin Stevens, a farmer is still living (1919). His mother's name was Fannie Stevens. As a boy young Stevens went to school in Liberty County and later at Valdosta. When ready for college he entered the State College at Savannah, where he took the Normal Course and learned the carpenter trade. When he reached the point where he could teach and earn money at the trade the way was easier. He began teaching at Ludowici and later taught in Lowndes and Clinch Counties and was for one year Principal of the city school at Eastman. He also taught at Chauncey. He went to Meharry for his medical course where he won his M. D. degree in 1901. He began the practice in Darien where he soon built up a good general practice and established a drug store. He resided at Darien for seventeen years when, on account of the failing health of his wife, he closed out his interests at Darien and moved to Valdosta. That was March 12, 1917, and already he is firmly established in the business and professional life of the city. While in Darien he was active in politics and was at one time Chairman of the County Commission. Since coming to Valdosta he has acquired the South Side Drug Co. which he conducts in connection with his growing practice.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and belongs to the Masons, the Pythians, and the Odd Fellows. He is also identified with the State Medical and Dental Society. He owns good property at both Valdosta and Savannah. On May 15, 1900, Dr. Stevens was married to Miss Minnie Brantley, a daughter of Ellen Brantley, of Gordon. She too was a teacher. They have three children: James B., Jr., Verdelle and Emeral B. Stevens.

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## MAURICE HUGH COBB

Dr. Maurice Hugh Cobb, one of the best known professional men of the race in South Georgia, resides at Quitman. He is also well known in secret order and benevolent society work as well as being prominent in the work of the Baptist church. He is a native of Florida, having been born near Ashville, in Jefferson County, June 28, 1872. His father, Rev. Turner W. Cobb, was a minister of the Missionary Baptist Church, and the son of Joshua and Margaret Cobb. His mother, Rosa Beard, who is still living, was the daughter of Maurice and Maria Beard.

In February, 1901, Dr. Cobb was married to Miss Mettie Elvren Hill, of Valdosta, who was educated at the Haven Home School, Savannah, and at Morristown, Tenn. One daughter, Maurice Lee, was born to them. She is a student at Spelman Seminary, Atlanta. Dr. Cobb's present wife was, before her marriage, Miss Florence Cartledge Davis, of Americus.

Dr. Cobb's family moved into Georgia while he was a small boy and he attended school at Stockton, later entering the Atlanta Baptist, now Morehouse, College. During his younger days he taught for eleven years, including the schools at Tifton, Stockton, Dupont, Waycross and in Coffee County. He was an enterprising boy, but had a hard straggle to secure his education. He was accustomed to do all sorts of odd jobs until he secured a place on the railroad and got money enough to go to school. After completing a few terms at the Atlanta Baptist College, he matriculated at Meharry Medical College where he won his M. D. degree in 1897. He was led to this course by the fact that he felt that there was a great need among his people for better medical attention. In 1898 he located at Valdosta, where he practiced until January, 1910, at which time he removed to Quitman, where he has since resided and has a good practice. His principal property interests are at Valdosta and Quitman.

He is a Republican in politics and has been active in the councils of his party, and is now a member of the Brooks County Republican Committee.





MAURICE HUGH COBB.

He is a member of the Baptist Church, in which he is a deacon and takes an active and a leading part in the work of his church. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Masons and Pythians. He is chief deputy of the Deputies and Supervisor's Institute of the G. U. O. O. F., a member of the Grand Lodge Masons and is Assistant Surgeon, with the rank of Captain of the Fourth Regiment of the K. P. of Georgia. His work as Supervisor of Institutes in connection with the Odd Fellows has carried him into every corner of the State.

Dr. Cobb is Right Excellent Grand Secretary of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons, of the State of Georgia. Dr. Cobb is also a member of the State Medical Association and President of the Brooks County Medical Association. He is an active, energetic, intelligent man of affairs who asks for himself and for his people only a square deal.

While in college he was an enthusiastic baseball player. Since leaving school his favorite reading has been science, biography and history.

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## WILLIAM HENRY FERRELL

The present Moderator of the Kennesaw Association illustrates in his life and experience that while the schools may assist and education may help, yet success in one's calling or profession depends upon personal qualities and the ability to improve the opportunities as they come.

Rev. William Henry Ferrell was born in Nelson County, Virginia, June 15, 1871. His father's people were Hills, though he took the name of his stepfather, Ferrell. His mother, before her marriage, was Polina Ross, a daughter of William and Celia Ross. The family lived on a farm and it was here that young Ferrell spent his boyhood days. His schooling was limited to three terms of five months each in the public schools. But let no one imagine that this is the limit of his education. He has traveled considerably in America and being a close observer has learned much in that way. Not only so, but he has learned to observe men and to study their methods. The good and the



WILLIAM HENRY FERRELL.

successful he has tried to imitate and follow, the mistakes of others he has sought to avoid.

When about thirteen years of age he was converted and at the same time felt called to preach. He smothered this inclination, however, for years and at seventeen drifted into railroad work which took him away from home.

One year was spent in South Carolina, a year and a half in North Carolina, and a year in Atlanta. He then went to farming in Clayton County, Ga., where he remained for some time.

On March 16, 1896, he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Sylvester Baptist Church. In 1898 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church and accepted the pastorate of the Rock Spring Church which he had organized and built. After one year in the pastorate he took up independent evangelistic work in Georgia and on June 1, 1903, came to Rome. The balance of that church year was devoted to his evangelistic work. In the fall of 1903 he was called to the St. Peters Baptist church which he served for twenty months and repaired the house. Since then he has pastored Lake Creek near Cedartown for five years and three months and rebuilt the house, Fosters Grove at Cave Spring, one year, and repaired the house; Flat Rock, near Rome, eleven years and erected a new house of worship; Stilesboro seven years and remodeled the church, and Cave Springs six years where he completed the church, begun by the late Rev. E. H. Whorton. In 1911 he was called to the Friendship church at Adairsville, where a new house of worship has been built. In the same year he accepted the pastorate of the New Hope Church at Cassville, and built a new house there also. In 1914 he accepted calls from Pleasant Grove at Rome, and Pleasant Grove at Rogers, and has built a new church at the former. He is now (1919) serving the last four churches mentioned. He has been successful both as an evangelist and as a pastor and has baptised into the membership of the church at least a thousand new members. The character of his work and his personal popularity may be judged from the fact that in 1909 he was elected Moderator of the Kennesaw Association which position he has since held. He is a member of the Executive Board of the State Convention and also of the Educational

Board. In addition he is a Trustee of the Rome High and Industrial School and usually attends both the State and National Conventions of his denomination. He is a Republican in politics and is a member of the Floyd County Committee.

Among the secret orders he belongs to the Pythians and the Mosaic Templars. He owns an attractive home on Ross Street in Rome.

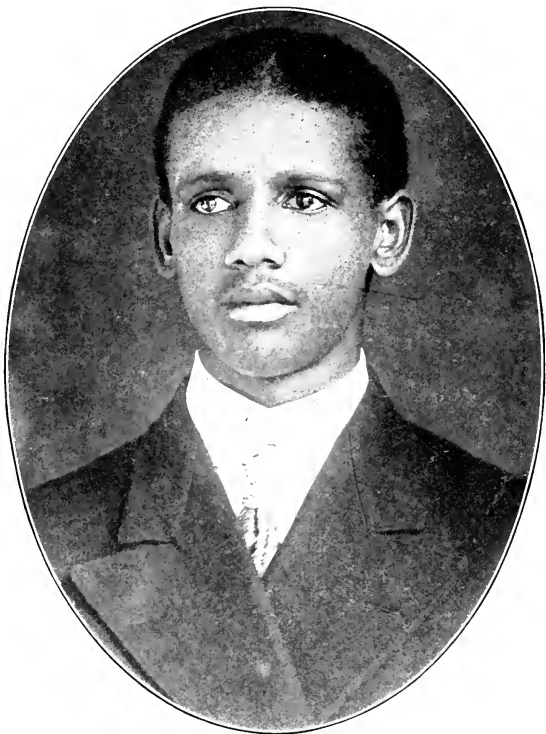
On April 14, 1910, he was happily married to Miss Carrie Hendricks, of Talladega, Ala. She was a daughter of Booker Hendricks, and is a woman of education and culture. They have one child, William Hendricks Ferrell.

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## CHARLES HENRY SPURGEON LYONS

If any one familiar with the educational work of the Baptist denomination in Georgia were asked to name the leading schools of the denomination, the list would certainly include Jeruel Baptist Institute, Americus Institute, and Morehouse College. With all these, the subject of this Biography has been identified either as a student or teacher. He is a native of the historic old university town of Athens, where he was born July 25, 1881. His father, Rev. Collins H. Lyons, D. D., the founder of Jeruel Institute, was a minister of the Baptist Church and while he died when his son was only thirteen years of age, he had nevertheless inspired the boy and aroused within him an ambition and a determination to make something of himself. The years that followed were years of hard work and struggle, but there was no weakening and no turning back on the part of the boy. His mother was Maggie (Williams) Lyons. She was a daughter of John H. Williams. Prof. Lyons' Paternal grandparents were Henry and Julia Lyons.

Growing up in Athens, the boy attended the public schools through the primary grades and then went to Jeruel Academy for his grammar school and academic work. When ready for college he matriculated at Morehouse College where he won his A. B. degree in 1908. It requires only a paragraph in which to tell the story but when it is translated into years of work and



CHARLES HENRY SPURGEON LYON

long months of study sometimes interrupted by the necessity of earning money for expenses, one will understand something of the courage required to complete the course. There was no vacation for it was necessary for the young man to teach during the summer months in order to continue his work. He began teaching in 1899, when only eighteen years of age, and has taught continuously for twenty years. It was in this way that he found himself, for even before he had completed his course at Jeruel he was recognized as a successful teacher having won that enviable reputation in North East Georgia. No sooner had he completed his college course than there was a place awaiting him at Jeruel where he taught for nine years and was Assistant Principal. In 1917 he accepted work at the Americus Institute but after three months with that institution resigned to take charge of the Savannah River Academy, a Baptist institution at Hartwell. The work there has prospered under his administration.

On Sept. 8, 1909, Prof. Lyons was married to Miss Ophelia M. Derricotte, of Athens. She was educated at Athens and at Boston, and assists her husband in his work. Of the children born to them, two are living. They are Lottie Margaret and Charles Henry Spurgeon Lyons, Jr.

Prof. Lyons is active in Sunday School work and is Assistant Secretary of the State Sunday School Convention, which takes in every part of the State. He is Secretary of the Alumni Association of Morehouse College. He takes part in the local work of his political party and is a member of the Republican County Committee. His secret order affiliations are with the Odd Fellows and the Good Samaritans. He believes that the progress of the race depends on intelligence. Prof. Lyons owns a home in Athens, Georgia.

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## SAMUEL ELLIS TRAMMELL

Scattered through the educational institutions of the South is to be found a class of young college men, which fortunately for the race is on the increase. They are men of ability and determination who with singleness of purpose devote themselves to ed-



SAMUEL ELLIS TRAMMELL.



educational work and willingly incur the labor and expense necessary to equip themselves and to keep abreast of the times in their chosen profession. These young men constitute one of the real assets of the race. Among them must be mentioned Prof. Samuel Ellis Trammell of the Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, Albany, Ga. He is a native of the sister state of Alabama. His father, Caesar Trammell, a farmer, still living (1919), resides at Centerville, Ala. His mother, Hannah (Suttle) Trammell, died in 1885. The boy was born at Centerville, Ala., July 18, 1878. It was here he laid the foundation of his education.

He attended the A. & M. College, Normal, Ala., and won his B. S. degree in 1906. It was necessary for him to make his own way in school, but he went at the task bravely and was soon able to pass State teachers examination and secured a life certificate. He was able to secure summer school work in the rural schools. From this point the way was easier. For his regular college course, he went to the University of Illinois, where he spent four years and won his M. A. degree in 1911. His vacations were spent in Chicago. This gave him the coveted opportunity of taking instrumental music at the Chicago Conservatory of Music where he gave special attention to piano and pipe organ in both of which he became proficient.

Prof. Trammell taught at Tuscaloosa for three years. He was then called to Birmingham, as Assistant Principal of the High School in which position he remained for two years. At the end of that time he was made Principal of the Cameron Grammar School, and was retained in that work for five years. He was in the postal service for two years. In 1917 he was induced to come to Georgia to teach History and the Sciences at the Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, and now holds the same position. During the summer of 1919 he specialized in Agriculture at Hampton Institute, Va.

Prof. Trammell is a member of the A. M. E. Church. He has not been active in politics nor is he identified with the secret orders. He believes that the permanent progress of the race waits on better schools. His property interests are in Alabama. His favorite reading is Romance.

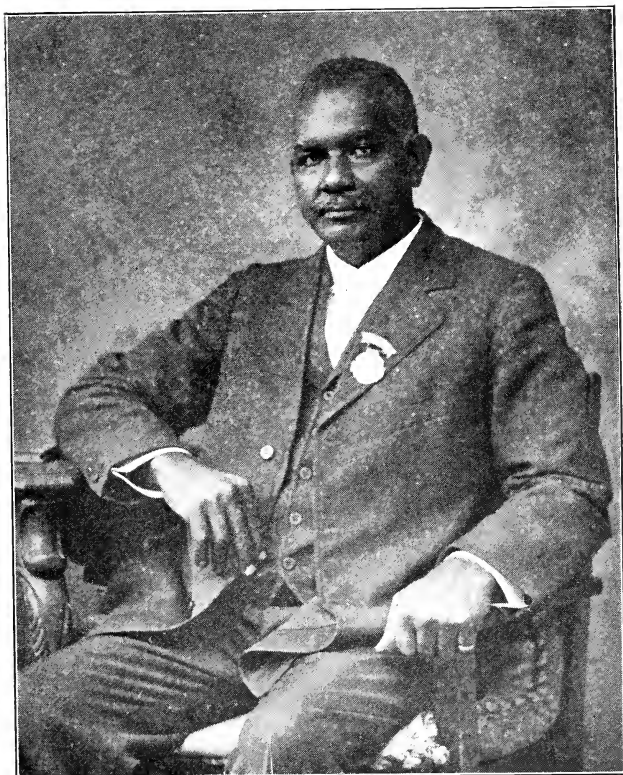
## ISRAEL GEORGE GLASS

Even under favorable conditions, the man who aspires to religious leadership has no easy pathway. How much harder then must have been the task of the man who was born in the midst of the war and grew up during the hard years following that great struggle when all the people were poor and a college education beyond the reach of most people. It was into conditions like these that Israel George Glass was born on March 2, 1863, in Thomas County. His father, Mitchell Glass, was a farmer, a blacksmith and a carpenter, and was the son of Caroline Glass. The mother of our subject was Rachel Joyce. She was a daughter of Roddick Joyce.

On January 2, 1894, Mr. Glass was married to Miss Amelia Chisholm, who is a native of South Carolina. She was educated at Savannah and at Knoxville, and is an efficient dressmaker. Mr. and Mrs. Glass have no children of their own, but half a dozen foster children have enjoyed the blessings of their home.

Rev. Glass laid the foundation of his education in Thomas and Lowndes counties. As a young man he worked on the farm and when ready for college matriculated at Atlanta University but was compelled to leave on account of failing health. He also attended the Normal Department of the State College at Savannah for two years.

When about twenty-five years of age he became active in the work of the A. M. E. Church. It was not long till he realized that his work in life, if he followed the Divine leadership, was to be the ministry. Accordingly he joined the Conference in 1888 under the late Bishop Gaines at Cuthbert. He was successful from the beginning and from being known as one of the rising young men of the Conference soon came to be looked upon as one of the leaders. His first appointment was the Tifton Mission where he organized a church, built a house of worship, and remained three years. He was then sent to Adel Circuit where he preached three years and built three churches and a parsonage. From Adel he went to Savannah Mission for one year and repaired two churches. After that he served the Effingham Circuit three years and built two churches; Spring-



ISRAEL GEORGE GLASS.

vale Circuit two years, built one church and repaired another. Blakely Station two years, erected a handsome new house of worship, and Albany Station two years, repaired the church.

In 1901 he was promoted to a District and presided over the Thomasville District four years, the Talbotton District two years and the Bainbridge District one year.

A strong man being needed for the Bainbridge Station, he was given that work for three years and succeeded in clearing up an indebtedness of three thousand dollars. He then went back to the presiding eldership and presided over the Americus District three years and is now in his fifth year on the Fitzgerald District. He has had a fruitful ministry and has brought into the church at least one thousand members. He is a Trustee of Morris Brown University.

When it is stated that in addition to his ministerial work Dr. Glass has farmed all his life and that he taught school for eleven years, it will be seen that he has been a busy man. Next after the Bible his reading runs to such works as Plutarch, Spencer, etc. He is a Republican in politics. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, Pythians and Supreme Circle. He is Grand Auditor in the latter organization. He has attended four General Conferences of his church and is recognized as one of the leading figures in the Annual Conferences.

He has been a close observer of men and of conditions and believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by Christian education. He lives at Thomasville but owns property in Thomas, Decatur, Chatham, Cook and Lowndes Counties.

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## GEORGE H. HUNTER

A number of the prominent and successful men of both races in South Georgia are natives of North Carolina. This is true of Rev. George H. Hunter who for twenty-seven years has been the popular and successful pastor of the Mother Eastern Missionary Baptist Church of Moultrie. He was born during the war, on August 11, 1863. His parents were Ransom and Eliza



GEORGE H. HUNTER.

Hunter. His grandparents on his mother's side were Ned and Malindy Rawlins. He was brought up without any school advantages whatever and up to the time he entered the ministry could do little more than read and write. He is a man of sense, however, and has made the most of such opportunities as he had. He was converted when about fifteen years of age and joined the Baptist Church at Holly Springs, N. C. When he reached the age of twenty-one he took up the work of the ministry. He was licensed by the Poplar Springs Church in Moore County, N. C., and was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry in 1883 by the church at Argyle after coming to Georgia.

Soon after coming to Georgia he bought a home at Sparks, where he lived for ten years. He then moved to Moultrie where he has since resided. His first pastorate was at Bayboro, where he preached for three years and built a new house of worship. Since then he has been a busy man. He pastors Bethel Church at Adel where a new house has been built, and the First Church at Sylvester, where the church has been seated at an outlay of fourteen hundred dollars. It is in connection with his Moultrie work, however, that he is best known. Since 1892 he has gone in and out before his people and has led them into larger service. Soon after coming to Moultrie to work a new church was built but was destroyed by fire. Another was erected and it too was burned. Then the present brick structure was built at a cost of ten thousand dollars. Hundreds of new members have been added to his churches. In 1907 Rev. Hunter was elected Moderator of the Great Eastern Association over which he has presided since. He is a member of the Executive Board of the State Convention and was at one time President of the local Sunday School Convention.

While not seeking primarily to make money, Rev. Hunter has accumulated considerable property and commands the respect and the confidence of his neighbors both white and colored.

On December 29, 1880, he was married to Miss Harriet Norris, a daughter of Simon Peter and Bridgett Norris, of North Carolina. Of the eleven children born to them the following are living: Mattie (Mrs. Bradford), George, Daisy (Mrs. McLeod), Mary (Mrs. Bradford), Carow (Mrs. Blakely), Savannah (Mrs. Williams), Odessa (Mrs. Hogaus), Vernita and Alfred Hunter.

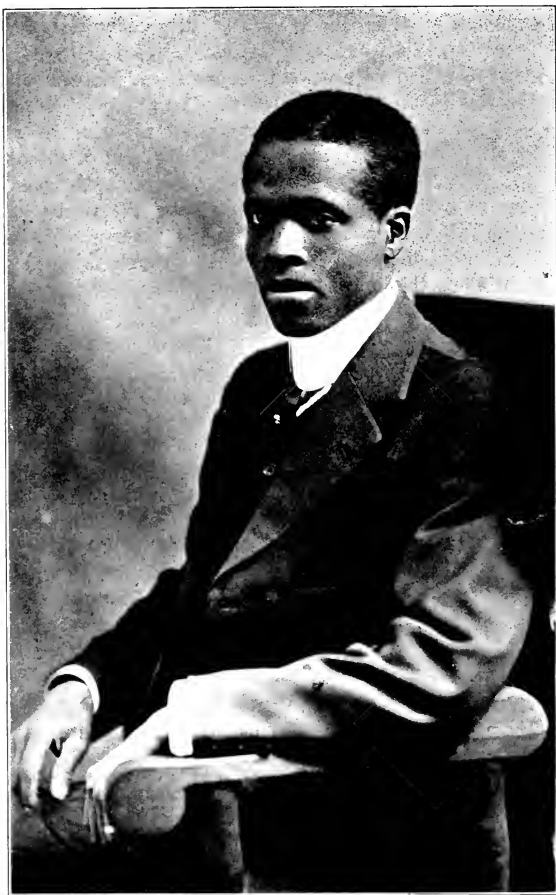
He takes no active part in politics. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Eastern Star. He believes that the welfare of the race in the state and nation may be best promoted by education, self respect and race pride. The true source of lasting honor and permanent success lies not in the accident of a man's race or color of his skin, but in what he makes of himself; in the wise use of the faculties with which God has endowed him, and of the opportunities which Providence places along every man's way. By these means, with early advantages far below the average of the present day, Rev. Hunter has attained a fair measure of success, and is commendably desirous of seeing the people raise the standards all along the line.

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## SMITH MILTON LEWIS

In recent years, the medical profession, notwithstanding the long course of preparation required has attracted an increasing number of the most intelligent young men of the race. Among these must be mentioned Dr. Smith Milton Lewis, the only colored physician in the prosperous little city of Moultrie. Dr. Lewis was born near Americus in Sumter County, December 6, 1884. His father, Sims Lewis, was a successful farmer. He was a son of Berry and Maria Lewis. Sims Lewis passed away in 1903. Dr. Lewis' mother was, before her marriage, Miss Hattie Smith, a daughter of George and Henrietta Smith.

Growing up in the country, young Lewis attended the public schools. Later he entered Americus Institute and after attending that school for awhile went to Ballard Normal at Macon for four years. When ready for his medical course, he matriculated in the Medical Department at Howard University, at Washington, D. C., where he won his M. D. degree in 1911. Though able to pursue his college and medical courses without a break, Dr. Lewis did not find the way easy. His parents and an older sister were able to render some assistance and by means of hotel work at the North during vacation time he dug out the balance. He never wavered in his determination to fit himself



SMITH MILTON LEWIS.



for his work in life. After completing his course he spent some time at Americus and Albany, but after looking over the field decided to locate at Moultrie. He established himself there in 1913 and has built up a general practice which keeps him busy. In the recent epidemic of influenza he lost only one case.

Dr. Lewis is a Republican in politics, though he is not active. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church in which he is a Trustee. He belongs to the Odd Fellows and the Pythians and is identified with the State Medical Society. He is the local examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company and the North Carolina Mutual. Dr. Lewis has made his investments in Moultrie. He put himself into every phase of war work and volunteered for the Medical Reserve Corps. He was commissioned First Lieutenant but was not called. Dr. Lewis believes that education is the one great need of the race.

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## JAMES EDWARD BROWN

The sister state of Alabama has contributed a number of strong men to the professional life of Georgia. One of these is Professor James Edward Brown, Assistant Principal of the Americus Institute, Americus, Georgia. He was born in Bulloch County, Ala., May 3, 1874. His father, Willis Brown, who was a farmer, passed away before the son was born. His mother, Matilda (Thomas) Brown died when the boy was only two years old. Thus completely orphaned in infancy he was left to the care of his grandmother, Patsy Thomas, who reared him. Prof. Brown remembers with peculiar gratitude the training of his grandmother and credits her with exerting the most lasting and helpful influence in his life. Young Brown attended the public schools of Alabama. He was an apt student and early aspired to a college education, as may be imagined the way was not easy. After finishing his high school work he matriculated at Morehouse College where he first took the teachers professional course. As soon as he was able to secure teachers license he began teaching during his vacations in order to earn money to pursue his studies. He thus found his life work and deter-



JAMES EDWARD BROWN.

mined to complete the College Course. He won his A. B. degree in 1905. Prior to this he had taught in Calhoun, Chattahoochee, Campbell, Coweta and Heard Counties. For six years while Prof. Brown was taking his course at Morehouse he was a tutor.

Prof. Brown, after his graduation at Morehouse was elected to a regular teacher's place in the college but was also called to the Principalship of the Walker Baptist Institute at Augusta, which he accepted, remaining there for a period of two years. At the end of that time The Americans Institute was fortunate enough to secure his services where he has contributed much to the success of that institution for the last dozen years. He is now Assistant Principal. He has taught principally Mathematics and Languages, although he is perfectly at home in any department of the school. During vacations he does very effective field work for the school. In May, 1916, Morehouse College conferred on Prof. Brown the honorary degree of **Master of Arts.**

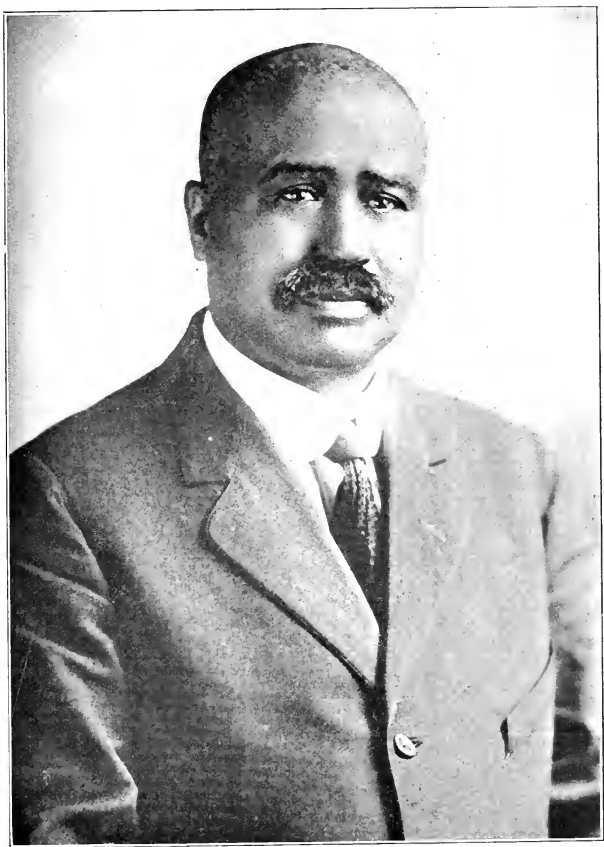
On September 12, 1906, Prof. Brown was married to Miss. Lilly Louise Lewis, a native of Arkansas. Mrs. Brown was educated at Spelman Seminary and is herself an accomplished teacher. They have two children, Lilly D. and James E. Brown, Jr. Prof. Brown joined the Baptist church in early life and has been active in its work through all the years. He teaches a class in Sunday School and is President of the Baptist Young Peoples Union. Among the secret and benevolent orders he is identified with the Pythians and Masons as well as some local orders.

Prof. Brown has studied conditions in both city and country and is of the opinion that the great need of his people is Christian education. His property interests are at Americus. The secret of Prof. Brown's success lies in his thoroughness and in his willingness to stay by a thing to completion regardless of the work required. This was shown by the fact that he did not fall into the error which so many young men make, that of cutting short his work of preparation in order to settle down. The Master made no such mistake, but spent thirty years in preparation for three years of work, and these three years work have been counting even through all the years which have since elapsed.

## SAMUEL CUNNINGHAM

If one doubts that this American country with all of its faults and particularly the South with even its drawbacks, is not the land of opportunity, he has only to study the life story of some individuals who have made a record for themselves and set a standard for young people of their race. The life of Samuel Cunningham, the leading real estate dealer of Atlanta, is a good illustration of this fact. Born on March 13, 1862, at a time when the country was bleeding at every pore, the son of a slave, struggling up through the direst poverty, his case looked hopeless enough to any one who might not have known the sort of stuff that was in him. But Samuel Cunningham is one of those rare spirits who simply refuse to be defeated. His path may lead him over rough ways and bring him to seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but these have only served to spur him on to greater endeavor, till now he has made a place for himself as a citizen of Atlanta, as a business man, and as an example to his race.

His boyhood home was in Anderson County, South Carolina, and his parents' names were John and Jane Cunningham. Samuel came to Atlanta when he was twenty years of age. When he reached the station he had only one dollar and a half in his pocket. Strange as it may seem, he had come to Atlanta to go to school, but by the time he had reached the campus of Clark University he had not a cent left, and no clothes but the suit he had on his back. When he finished his course eight years later, he was not only out of debt, but had seventy-five dollars in his pocket, and had just paid forty dollars for the evening suit in which he delivered his graduating oration. Let no one, however, imagine that he had had an easy time. His first day's work after reaching Atlanta was ditching. From that time forward he did not lack for work, though it was not always remunerative. Notwithstanding his poverty, however, he held steadily to his purpose, and by working night and day kept up with his classes. At the end of the year he returned home barefooted, in fact, had been able to return only because a white man was kind enough to lend him five dollars. On reaching his home



SAMUEL CUNNINGHAM.

station, his brother helped him to a pair of shoes and other clothing, after which he passed the teacher's examination and secured a school to teach during his vacation. Everybody expected the school teacher who had been at college to take life rather easily out of school. Not so with Samuel Cunningham. He looked around and found a man who had some tough old-field pine which he wanted chopped into cord wood, and our school teacher worked away at this morning and evening before and after school, first to pay back the five dollars the white man in Atlanta had lent him, and after that to get a suit of clothes so that he could go back to college in the fall. Later, when cotton began to open he transferred his activities from the old-field pines to the cotton patch, where he earned money a bit more rapidly. A short while before the end of his vacation he returned to Anderson, where he assisted his brother draying and in other heavy work by which he was able to earn some money, so that soon after the opening of the fall term he was back at his place in the college; and while there was a plenty of work from that time on he found the way opening up and the rest of his course was easier. Later during his vacation he secured schools in Georgia at Elberton and Duluth, and in 1889 was graduated with the degree of A. B. He taught at Elberton one year after his graduation.

Coming to Atlanta in '90, he began dealing in wood and coal, started up a grocery business on Auburn Ave., ran a line of hacks, and turned his hand to anything at which he could increase his business. Three or four years later he gradually closed out these lines, because he saw greater opportunities in the Atlanta real estate field, into which he turned in 1892. In this field he has been most successful, and has continued to prosper till now he is considered one of the wealthy men of his race, and does a volume of business which a short time ago would have been thought impossible for a man of his race. He engages extensively in building and does a considerable loan business.

On December 11, 1889, he was married to Miss Belle D. Jackson, who graduated with him at Clark University. She is a daughter of William and Amanda Jackson. Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham have five children.

The oldest boy, Wendell Thomas, who is associated with his father, studied at Clark and later at Harvard University. He studied law and saw service in France in the Signal Corps. William Harold did his college work at Howard University and was also in the army. Mabel, who married Mr. G. B. Warren, was educated at Clark and at Simmons College, Boston. Ralph S. went to Talledega College. The youngest daughter is Miriam I. Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham and his family reside at 114 Rockwell street, where they have a comfortable home, where are to be found every evidence of the culture and refinement one would expect in a home of an educated father and mother of ample means.

Mr. Cunningham and family are identified with Warren Chapel M. E. Church. He is superintendent of the Sunday School, a steward in the church, and a prominent member of the numerous boards of trustees and committees. He is identified with the Odd Fellows, and in politics is a Republican. He keeps up with current events through the newspapers and magazines, and apart from this is very fond of historical reading.

He is a member of the executive committee of the Home Mission and Church Extension Board of the M. E. Church, and a Trustee of Clark University.

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## CHARLES BERKELEY JOHNSON

Prof. Charles Berkeley Johnson, head of the colored public school work at Sparta, is one of the best equipped men of his race in the public school work of the state. He is a native of Greenville, S. C., where he was born October 26, 1871. His father, George W. Johnson, is a farmer and is still living (1919). His mother, before her marriage was Maria Adaline Vaughn. His maternal grandfather was William Vaughn, a native of Virginia, who lived to the ripe age of 103 years. His paternal grandfather was George Johnson.

Young Johnson grew up in the country near Greenville and was so ambitious for an education that he walked a total of thirteen miles a day for three years in order to attend the school



CHARLES BERKELEY JOHNSON.



in Greenville. He earned his tuition by working at odd jobs on Saturdays. In this way he prepared himself for college and entered Biddle University, where he remained for six years, graduating with the A. B. degree in 1899. Soon after entering college, he began teaching during summer vacations and taught two terms, one in North Carolina and the other at Tigerville, S. C. With the money thus earned together with what he was able to earn during the school term by working about the place, he was enabled to finish the course. Later, he took his A. M. degree from Columbia University, specializing in Sociology and the history of education. Notwithstanding the limitations put upon his time, he enjoyed both baseball and football while in college.

After completing his work in Columbia, he devoted three years to field work for the Fort Valley Industrial and High School. He was elected principal of the Sparta high school in 1916 and during his first year at that point made \$1,200 worth of improvements in the school property. He has an enrollment of nearly 500 pupils and a faculty of six.

Professor Johnson's favorite reading is history. In politics he is a Republican and is secretary of the Tenth Congressional District Executive Committee. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, being an elder in that denomination and was at one time Superintendent of the Sunday School of his church. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons and Pythians. He believes that his people must look to better educational facilities and the ownership of farm property for permanent progress and development.

Prof. Johnson owns a home at Greenville, S. C. On June 31, 1903, he was married to Miss Addie Woodson, of Augusta. She is a daughter of Giles and Decia Woodson and is herself a teacher, being a graduate of Scotia Seminary, Concord, N. C. They have no children.

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## CLARENCE EVERETT BRENT

Dr. Clarence Everett Brent now (1920) one of the leading colored physicians of Savannah, belongs to a class of cultured, intelligent, successful young men whose example and whose leadership is one of the big assets of the race. The success which they have attained and the position which they occupy in the social and professional life of the race are incentives to many others to make the struggle necessary to equip themselves for places of large usefulness.

Dr. Brent was a native of Washington, D. C., where he was born March 11, 1885. His father was Calvin T. S. Brent, an architect. His mother was before her marriage, Miss Albertine Jones, a daughter of Alfred Jones. The boy had the sad misfortune of losing his mother when he was nine years of age, and his father five years later. Dr. Brent's paternal grandparents were John and Martha Brent. As a boy young Brent attended the Washington public school and went from the grades into the High School which he was able to complete without a break. It may not be out of place to note here that Washington High School work corresponds to much of so-called college work of the South. After completing his High School course, he matriculated at the Medical Department of Howard University and won his M. D. degree in 1910. He worked during his summer vacations. This not only provided the means for next terms expenses but gave him valuable experience and that intimate knowledge which comes from extensive travel in one's own country and which is in itself a liberal education. The year 1911 was spent as an Interne at the Freedman's Hospital where he gained practical experience especially in surgery.

In 1912 he located in Savannah where he has since resided and practiced. Two years later, on December 29, 1914, Dr. Brent was married to Miss Anno Tucker, a daughter of A. L. and Claudia Tucker, of Savannah. They have one child, Calvin Tucker Brent.

Dr. Brent was a registrar under the selective draft and did considerable work in connection with the Y. M. C. A. He is a member of the Episcopal Church in which he is junior warden

and belongs to the Pythians and the Woodmen. He is a member of the South Atlantic Medical Society and of the State organization. He is local examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company and for the Pilgrims Life & Health Insurance Co.

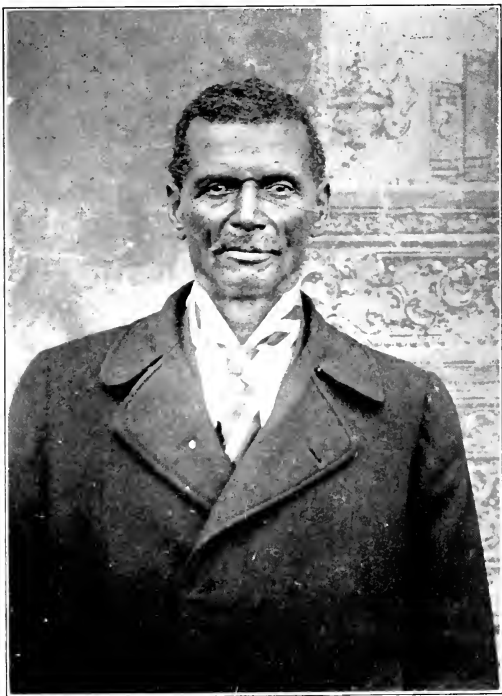
When asked how in his opinion the progress of the race can best be promoted Dr. Brent replied, "By giving them the ballot."

Still on the sunny side of forty, well equipped in every way, a man of intelligence and courage, Dr. Brent has before him the promise of years of large usefulness among his people.

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## HENRY HILLIARD WILLIAMSON

The story of Rev. Henry Hilliard Williamson goes back to the slavery period as he was born June 12, 1856, or five years before the war broke out. His father's name was Burrell Williamson. He was told that his mother's name was Easter, but she was sold and taken away from her baby when he was only 6 months old, so has no memory of his mother. Rev. Williamson was born at Clinton, N. C., and did not come to Georgia till he was nearly grown. He was about nine years old when the war closed and had only been taught such things as a slave boy was permitted to know. After Emancipation, he was bound out till he was twenty-one. He was put to work on the farm so that his condition was not much improved. When he was about nineteen years of age, he decided that he had enough and so ran away and came to Georgia where he was employed in the turpentine woods by the Peacocks of Cochran. After working in Georgia he later went to Alabama to work but returned to Georgia. He experienced the new birth after coming to Georgia and soon after connecting himself with the church felt called to preach the Gospel. He was licensed in 1885 and at once became active. So when he came up to the Conference in 1887 and was ordained by Bishop Turner, he reported two churches which he had organized. He was regularly appointed to these which were at Chauncey and at Inglewood. After one year he was sent to the Lumber City Circuit for two years. Then followed Rochelle



HENRY HILLIARD WILLIAMSON.

Circuit four years, where he built two churches, and Lumber City one year. The following year he declined a Savannah appointment and forthat year worked at his trade as a mason. He then went to the Tattnall Circuit where he preached for four years and built two churches, and from there to the Swainsboro Circuit where he preached two years and built the church at Swainsboro. He was then appointed to the Darien Station and after one year was sent to Ashburn for a year, where he built a fine church. His next work was the Montgomery County Circuit on which he erected two new houses of worship. He then took another year off, following which, he preached at Thebes for two years. Again he took up his trade with Hilton and Dodge for two years, and on returning to the work was assigned to Cochran two years, and after that the Abbeville Circuit one year. He preached at Offerman one year and at Waynesville a short time after which he was sent to the Wayercross Station for three years, where he built a church. From Wayercross he came to his present work where he is now in his fourth year.

So it will be seen that Rev. Williamson has been a busy man and has added immensely to the membership and to the church property of his denomination in Georgia.

He is a self-made man, though a believer in education and a Trustee of Morris Brown College.

On December 29, 1877, he was married to Miss Sarah Lester, of Jones County. Of the eight children born to them, the following are living: Emmie (Mrs. Walker), Euphemia (Mrs. Took), Erskine M., Maud and George W. Williamson.

He is a Mason. He believes that the great need of his people is training and leadership. His property interests are at Chauncey, Lumber City and Claxton.

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## CLAUD HAMILTON ROBINSON

It is a far cry from the hut of the obscure negro boy in Northeast Georgia to the pastorate of one of the greatest Baptist congregations in the Capital city of his native state. Yet Rev. Claud Hamilton Robinson now (1919) pastor of the Zion Hill Baptist Church of Atlanta covered that ground before he was forty. He was born August 10, 1878 and is a son of Sarah Robinson who was a daughter of Martha Robinson. It is hardly necessary to remark that the early years of his life were filled with hard work and struggle against difficulties, which, while discouraging, did not overcome him. Through it all he kept his body strong and his heart pure. He was converted in his early teens and before he was twenty had definitely given himself to the work of the ministry. As a boy he attended the rural schools of Franklin County. As he grew to young manhood and realized the need of better preparation for the important work to which he had dedicated his life, he determined to go to college even though that course committed him to hard work, rigid economy and self sacrifice. Accordingly he entered Jeruel Academy, Athens, for his academic work and remained in that institution for eight years. Without outside assistance, it was necessary for him to make his own way in school. This experience has enabled him to sympathize with the struggling youth of his congregations. In 1896 he was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church of Lithonia and in 1900 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. He is a forceful and attractive speaker and from the beginning of his ministry has emphasized the evangelistic note in his preaching. He is in fact regarded as one of the most successful pastor-evangelists of his age in the denomination in Georgia. After beginning the work of the ministry he matriculated at Morehouse College for his Theological Course which was duly finished with the B. Th. degree. His first pastorate was Fairfield at Danielsville, which he remodeled and served for eight years. Since then he has pastored the Church at Gillsville five years, Springfield, at Comer, ten years; White Oak Springs, at Winder, eight years; Mt. Perry, in Morgan County, eight years, and Tab-



CLAUD HAMILTON ROBINSON.

ernacle at Monroe, five years. A new house of worship was erected at Winder and the houses repaired and debts paid at various other points.

After the death of their pastor, Dr. W. W. Floyd, the Zion Hill Baptist Church of Atlanta, after mature consideration, called Dr. Robinson in 1916. He accepted the call and entered upon this great work in a way which soon showed that the man and the opportunity were fairly met. With a great membership of more than three thousand, he has forged ahead with the work and has already made for himself a prominent place in the denomination. He is now maturing plans for the erection of a splendid new house of worship.

On October 2, 1909, Dr. Robinson was married to Miss Susannah Richards, of Athens. She is a daughter of Rev. R. R. and Julia Richards. They have two children, Claud H., Jr., and Hazel Juanita Robinson.

As he looks back over his career, Dr. Robinson is inclined to credit his mother, his teachers and pastor with the chief inspiration of his boyhood days. He has some property interests in Athens and in Atlanta and believes that the future progress of the race depends largely on the proper development of the rural schools.

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## SAMUEL JAMES ELLIS

One of the efficient, forceful young men of the Presbyterian Church in Georgia is Rev. Samuel James Ellis, now (1919) located at LaFayette.

Rev. Ellis is a versatile man of ideas as well as deeds and is of that progressive type which means so much to the progress and development of the race. He is a native of Middle Georgia, having been born in Greene County, April 21, 1889. His mother, Matilda Ellis, was a daughter of Andrew and Carrie Ellis.

Young Ellis attended the Greene County rural schools as a boy and from the very beginning of his career as a student, attracted the attention of his teachers. He was converted at the early age of eleven and may be said to have been active in the work of the church in one capacity or another all his life.



By the time he was sixteen he had felt called to the work of Gospel ministry. The preparation for this called for years of schooling. Accordingly he entered Biddle University at Charlotte and after completing the normal course took the collegiate course which was completed with the A. B. degree in 1911. Three years later he won the S. T. B. degree on completion of the Theological course. He made a brilliant record while in college and won numerous medals and awards. He excelled in languages and won the declamation medal in the Normal Department. He also won the Blue Banner prize on the Shorter Catechism and a five-dollar gold prize in Hebrew. His mental activities, however, are not confined to books. He is of an inventive turn of mind and has under way several mechanical devices of interest. He is also interested in matters of practical business education and training. During his school days he spent his vacations north. After his graduation he began his work in Coweta County. He preached at Raymond and Mt. Sinai at the same time serving as assistant principal of the McClellan Institute at Newnan till 1918, when he moved to LaFayette to take charge of the Presbyterian work. One would naturally expect a man of his type to be an extensive reader. After the Bible his favorite lines are History and Biography. He has not been active in politics nor is he identified with the secret orders.

On Dec. 26, 1918, he was married to Miss Cynthia Alexander, of Charlotte, N. C. She was educated at Scotia Seminary and is herself an accomplished teacher.

Rev. Ellis is of the opinion that the greatest need of the race today is the right sort of education.

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## WILSON MATTHEWS JENKINS

It is an easy matter to tell the story of a commercial or industrial leader who has established an institution or built up a successful business. It is much harder to write the biography of a Christian minister who does not build around himself but spends his life for the church of his choice and for the Master. His monument consists not in a slab of stone or



WILSON MATTHEWS JENKINS.

a magnificent business house left as a mark of his energy and business ability, but his monument consists of renewed characters and redeemed lives, and these things cannot be weighed or measured.

Among the Baptist ministers of Georgia who have enjoyed a fruitful ministry must be mentioned Rev. Wilson Matthews Jenkins, of Augusta. He was born in Burke County, on May 20th, 1875. His father, Alonzo Jenkins, was a farmer. He was a son of Reuben and Vinie Jenkins. Rev. Jenkins' mother, Lula Jenkins, was a daughter of Violet Cheesboro. Young Jenkins grew up on a farm and was thus taught to do all sorts of farm work. When he came of school age he attended the rural schools but made the best of his opportunities. As he grew to young manhood he identified himself with the Baptist church when about seventeen years of age, and the following year felt directed by the Divine leadership to preach the Gospel. He was licensed by the Frazierville Baptist Church and in 1896 was ordained to the full work of the ministry. As he looks back over his life he recalls with gratitude the helpful influence of his Uncle William Smith who induced him to go to night school at a time when it is easy for a boy to neglect such things. He began his regular pastoral work at the Frazierville Baptist Church which he served for five years. The house was remodeled and as the character of his work was recognized, he was in demand by other churches. He preached at Mt. Gilead, Boneville, for eight years and erected a new house of worship. An indebtedness was cleared up during a five years pastorate at St. Paul, Sharon. He preached at Union Springs, Norwood, three years and cancelled a debt there also. He pastored Loveday, Augusta, two and a quarter years. He is now serving Shiloh, Augusta, Daniels Grove in Burke County, and Sandy Grove at Mitchell's. During his pastorate of thirteen years at Augusta two new houses of worship have been built and paid for, while the church at Daniel's Grove has been painted. A debt has been paid off at Shady Grove and the house painted. Rev. Jenkins has given special attention to evangelistic work and has baptized more than thirteen hundred new members. He was active in all phases of war work among his people. He is a

member of the Pythians but has not been active in politics. He is a graduate of the Walker Baptist Institute.

On October 25, 1914, he was married to Miss Mary Wade, of Augusta. She is a daughter of Andrew and Winnie Wade. They have adopted a niece, Rosa Lee Wright, and have one son, Bennie Ryans Jenkins.

From his observations, Rev. Jenkins is inclined to think that the greatest single need of the race is economy. He owns a comfortable home at Augusta.

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## SAMUEL JACKSON WILLIAMS

Rev. Samuel Jackson Williams, one of the progressive, well-equipped young men of the Baptist denomination in Georgia, has by patient endeavor fitted himself for a place of large usefulness in his chosen profession. He is a native of Richmond County, having been born at Belair, March 2, 1880. His father, Rev. Charlie Williams, D. D., is both a popular pastor and a successful business man. A story of his life is to be found in Vol. I. of this work. Being brought up in a religious atmosphere it is not strange that the mind of young Williams early turned toward the church. He joined the church when he was only thirteen years of age and was licensed to preach at the early age of seventeen. He was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Pleasant Home Baptist Church.

Starting to public school as a boy, Rev. Williams kept up his struggle for an education through the years and in 1919 completed the Theological Course at Morehouse College with the B. D. degree. After the public schools he went to Walker Baptist Institute, Augusta, for his literary training and later to Morehouse College, from which he was graduated in 1908. Though under the necessity of making his own way in school, he did not allow that fact to discourage him or divert him from the task he had set himself. While in school he played both baseball and football.

Rev. Williams has been married twice. His first marriage was on March 29, 1901, to Miss Frances Elizabeth Smith, by



SAMUEL JACKSON WILLIAMS.

whom he has one daughter, Lilly Aquilla Williams.

On August 21, 1917, Mrs. Williams passed away. On May 14, 1918, he was married a second time, to Miss Mary J. Dixon, of Culverton. She was educated at Walker Baptist Institute and at Spelman and was a teacher at White Plains before her marriage.

Though still a comparatively young man, Rev. Williams already has to his credit years of faithful service in the pastorate. He has preached at Way's Grove, Stellaville, for thirteen years. He has served Piney Grove at Dearing for twenty years and Springfield at Culverton for nine years. He has been at Harts, Grove, Stapleton, two years and is planning a new house of worship there. A new church is also under way at Stellaville, and the house at Dearing has been rebuilt under his administration. He is also pastor of Tremont Temple, Augusta, which he has served for thirteen years and erected a new church. This is a splendid congregation of nearly eight hundred members.

Practically all his time is devoted to the ministry. He owns a comfortable home and other property in the suburbs of Augusta.

He believes that in the last analysis the permanent progress of the race will best be promoted "By a close conformity to the requirements of practical Christianity."

Rev. Williams is a member of the Reformatory Board and is a regular attendant at the annual meetings of both the State and national conventions of his denomination.

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## WESLEY JEHOSEPHAT JENKINS

Rev. Wesley Jehosephat Jenkins, of Albany, is one of the active men of the Baptist denomination in Southwest, Georgia. His activities have found expression in new churches, old ones repaired and congregations built up. He was born in Baker County, Oct. 15, 1876, but was brought up in Lee County, as the family left Baker soon after he was born. His parents, Rev. Dock and Diana Jenkins. In the absence of written records



WESLEY JEHOSEPHAT JENKINS.

he knows nothing of his earlier ancestors. He was so unfortunate as to lose his father while he was still young. He remembers that although his mother was uneducated she was ambitious for her son and sought to assist and inspire her son in every way she could.

The boy grew up on the farm and availed himself of such schools as Lee County afforded at that time. He was denied the opportunity of a college education but by reading and study and by correspondence courses, has sought to overcome this lack and to fit himself for the largest service in his chosen field of work. When he was seventeen years of age he experienced the new birth and joined the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Lee County. Almost immediately he felt called to preach the Gospel and began to shape his life with that end in view.

He went to Waycross to work and it was by the St. Paul Church of that city that he was licensed. In 1906 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry and has already made for himself a place in the Baptist denomination. He preached at McDonald two years and repaired the house of worship. He accepted the call of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Waycross, and during a pastorate of two years there built a new house. Ten years ago he organized the William Grove Church at Moultrie and has since been its pastor. The first church edifice was destroyed by fire and a second erected on the same site. The congregation has grown at this place under his leadership from a small beginning to two hundred twenty-five members. Among other churches he has served may be mentioned Funston where he has preached three years and built a new house of worship; River Hill, Valdosta, where during a pastorate of two years the church was repaired, and Mineola where he also preached for two years and repaired the church. Four years ago he accepted the call of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Albany which has made good progress under his administration. Dr. Jenkins has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized many new members into the church. He gives considerable attention to evangelistic work. Next after the Bible his favorite reading is History. He is a Trustee of Americus Institute and of the Baptist School at Fitzgerald and is chairman of the.



Executive Board of the Willocoochee Association. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Pythians. He owns a home at Waycross.

Though denied the opportunity of a college education himself, he is the friend and supporter of education and believes that the future progress of the race depends on the right sort of education.

On December 24, 1893, he was married to Miss Emma Adkins, of Lee County. They have one child, Frank G. Jenkins.

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## JORDAN M. MERRITT

Those who were born just before or during the war and were brought up during the hard years just after the war, had to undergo privations and hardships of which the present generation knows but little. Occasionally, even in those trying times, a boy would rise superior to his environment and by the power of his will and sheer force of character, lift himself out of his poverty and obscurity and put himself in a place of leadership among his people. Such a man is Rev. Jordan M. Merritt, of Albany, who for more than thirty years has gone in and out before the people of Southwest Georgia and has taught them lessons of right living by his example as well as by his sermons. He was born in Dougherty County, Feb. 28, 1862. His father, Marshall Merritt, became a successful business man after Emancipation. Though ignorant of books he was a hard-working, pious man and was a deacon in the Baptist Church. In fact he was the founder of the St. Paul Church which his son has served as pastor for sixteen years. The father did more. He taught his son those lessons of work and economy which have been the basis of his success.

Rev. Merritt's mother was, before her marriage, Georgiana Barksdale. Both the Merritts and the Barksdales were brought from Middle Georgia to Dougherty County.

In 1889 when still a very young man, he was married to Miss Annie Parker, of Dougherty County. She bore him one child, a daughter. Mrs. Merritt passed to her reward years ago and

Mr. Merritt has not married again. The daughter married and is also gone. Some grandchildren and one great grand-child survive.

Having been brought up on the farm, he has continued to farm more or less all his life and is today one of the successful farmers of Dougherty County. He also conducts a mercantile business in East Albany where he lives, and thus disposes of much of the produce of his farm in his store.

He has other large real estate holdings and owning and renting more than fifty houses in Albany.

Mr. Merritt was converted at an early age. Soon after he took up the work of the ministry and was licensed and ordained by the St. Paul Baptist Church. He accepted the call of the Shiloh Baptist Church which he has served for thirty years and built a new house of worship. He has pastored a number of other churches including St. Paul, where he built a five thousand dollar church, and remained for sixteen years; Macedonia, in Lee County eighteen years, where a new church was built, and Green Grove at Smithville, where a new house was erected also. He preached at Jerusalem Grove, near Smithville for awhile and entered upon the pastorate of the Shady Grove Church where he remained for twenty-one years and one month. He has pastored the Union Baptist Church of East Albany for eighteen years and the Blue Springs Church three years. A new Church was built at Union.

His work as a preacher of the Gospel has been blessed. He has baptized more than twelve hundred persons. He is a life member of the Baptist State Convention and a Trustee of Central City College.

For seven years he has been Moderator of the Blue Springs Baptist Association which, under his leadership, has established the Old Folks Home, at St. Paul. The institution has a good house and a hundred and fifty acres of land.

Though himself denied the opportunity of any schooling except the rural schools and night school, he is the friend of education and his churches are among the most progressive in the association.

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## JESSE ISAAC STRINGER

To write properly the story of a man like Rev. Jesse Isaac Stringer, of Dawson, one must remember the hard conditions which prevailed during the years covered by his boyhood. He was born March 1, 1868, and thus grew up during the reconstruction period. His father, Gus Stringer, was a farmer. He was a son of Isaac and Oline Stringer. Rev. Stringer's mother was, before her marriage, Louisa Shackleford, and was the daughter of Benjamin and Anna Shackleford. It was the abiding and helpful influence of his mother more than anything else which induced young Stringer to aspire to the nobler things of life and gave him the courage to work his way up from a most humble place on the farm to a position of leadership in the great A. M. E. denomination.

As a boy he went to the rural school but was denied the opportunities of college training. His service has been just as faithful however and quite as effective as that of many another man who had better opportunities. After entering upon the work of the ministry he took a correspondence course in Theology from Morris Brown.

He experienced the new birth and became active in the work of the church during his early teens. He was scarcely more than a boy when called to preach. He was licensed in 1893. In 1900 he was ordained Deacon and made Elder in 1903. He had joined the conference in 1899 and his first appointment was the Missouriville Mission which he served one year and built a small church. Since then he has been one of the active men of the connection and has advanced steadily from the small mission to the district.

He preached at Philama in Lee County one year. After that he served the Leary Circuit four years, repaired three churches; Steen's Mill Circuit, Decatur County, built one church and repaired one; Parrott's Circuit one year, repaired church; Lowell Circuit two years, paid one church out of debt and repaired another; Talbotton Station, one year. In 1913 he was promoted to the district and presided over the Donaldsonville District for five years. In 1918 he was given the Cuthbert District.



JESSE ISAAC STRINGER.

In addition to his activities as a church builder, Rev. Stringer has also built up the congregation with which he has been identified and has brought into the church hundreds of new members.

He stands high in the denomination and has attended three General Conferences. He is a Trustee of Morris Brown and took a prominent part in war activities among his people.

On the first Sunday in November, 1885, he was married to Miss Rosilla McDonald, of Early County. They own a comfortable home at Cuthbert besides other property in Early County. Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons and the Pythians. He believes that the permanent progress of the race must grow from within and will include matters of education, economy and self-respect.

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## JOSEPH HOUSTON McMILLAN

A study of the life and work of Dr. Joseph Houston McMillan, of Fitzgerald, reveals the fact that he has never been afraid of hard work nor discouraged by difficulties. He is a native of the Old North State, having been born at Elk Creek, Allegheny County, N. C., Jan. 1, 1867. His father, Duncan McMillan, was a farmer. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Hester Ann Maxwell. She was a daughter of Hester Maxwell. Dr. McMillan's paternal grandmother was Hettie Gambrel. He has no record of his grandfathers except that they were white. Life on the North Carolina farm was hard enough with but little opportunity for an education except that furnished by the rather poor public schools of short terms. So young McMillan remained on the farm till he was twenty years of age. He then worked in an iron mine in the mountains of North Carolina for a few months, after which he drifted into railroading in Alabama. Soon afterwards he made his way to Virginia, where he continued railroading for five years. About this time new coal mines were developed along the line of the road by which he was employed and finding work in the mines paid better, he went into the mines and spent four years in the Virginia mines. With the opening up of the New River coal fields he went to West



JOSEPH HOUSTON McMILLAN AND FAMILY.

Virginia and continued to work in the mines. It was a rough life in every way and while he made good wages he saved but little. Thus matters stood till the fall of 1898 when the young man was converted and joined the Baptist Church.

Though now past thirty years of age, his thoughts turned at once to an education. The following year he entered the Virginia Industrial College at Lynchburg. He now had an incentive to save his money and from this time till the completion of his medical course spent his summer vacations in the mines and thus earned enough each summer to care for the following year's expense at school. After four years in school at Lynchburg, he matriculated at Leonard College, the Medical Department of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., and won his M. D. degree in 1906. The following year he did post graduate work at Magill University, Montreal, and returned to Lynchburg to begin the practice in the fall of 1907. After two years there he decided to come further South and in 1909 located at Monroe, and after four years moved to Fitzgerald where he has built up an extensive general practice in three counties around Fitzgerald.

Dr. McMillan is a vigorous, robust man, fond of the outdoors, and capable of great exertion. He is a Republican and while in West Virginia was a leader in local politics.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows and Good Samaritans. He is an active member of the Baptist Church.

He believes that the permanent progress of the race must begin in the home and deal with such fundamental things as honesty, truthfulness and clean living, with careful attention on the part of parents to the rearing of the children.

On June 26, 1907, Dr. McMillan was married to Miss Henrietta S. Rose, a daughter of Robert A. and Jennie H. Rose, of Lynchburg, Va. They have two children, Joseph Hairston, Jr., and Rosa Leonza McMillan.

Mrs. McMillan was educated in the public schools of Lynchburg and the V. I. I. of Petersburg, Va. She is a skillful teacher and is now (1919) principal of the Fitzgerald public school. She and her husband have both been active in war work. Their property interests are at Monroe and Fitzgerald.

## MARTIN LUTHER FAMBROUGH

One of the intelligent and promising young Negro ministers of the Missionary Baptist Church, in Georgia, is Rev. Martin Luther Fambrough, of Madison. His very name indicates pronounced religious influences back of him somewhere; and one will not be disappointed in that regard by investigation; for not only is he the son of Christian parents, but his grandparents, and especially his father's mother and mother's father were particularly active in religious work. His father, Rev. John Young Fambrough, was a Baptist minister and a merchant, whose mother, to whom we have referred, was Delia Fambrough. His mother's maiden name was Savannah Hurt, whose parents were Madison and Sophronia Hurt, all slaves.

M. L. Fambrough was born at Maxwells, Ga., in Oglethorpe County, December 18, 1886. He attended first the city school of Madison, Ga., and later the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Huntsville, Ala., from which he was graduated in 1907. He was an active participant in baseball. Upon leaving the school at Madison in 1904, he went to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he secured employment and saved money for his college course, which he began in the fall of the next year. His vacations were spent earning additional funds for the same purpose. After his graduation, he went back to Chattanooga, and from there to Athens, Ga., where he took charge of his father's grocery business in 1908. While there he was converted, and was baptized the first Sunday in May, 1909. Immediately he felt the call to the ministry, and promptly responded; for his first sermon was preached on the first Sunday in June, 1909.

He was licensed on October 1, 1910, and ordained to the full work of the ministry at Harmony Grove Baptist Church at Morvens, on August 31, 1911. His first pastorate was at Antioch, Green County. Of this he took charge on July 31, 1912, and has served it until this time (1919). He was called to Jefferson Church, Putnam County, 1916.

Though young, his pastorates have been successful and he is also a man of business capacity and training as has also been indicated. He farms at Madison and resides in the suburbs. His





MARTIN LUTHER FAMBROUGH.

present property holdings amount to several thousand dollars. In fact, but for his call to higher things he would doubtless in time have accumulated considerable wealth. As it is, he realizes that material things have their proper and necessary place in life and is "diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Since giving up his mercantile work for the ministry, he has engaged to some extent in teaching at Antioch. He is now assistant principal of the Madison School.

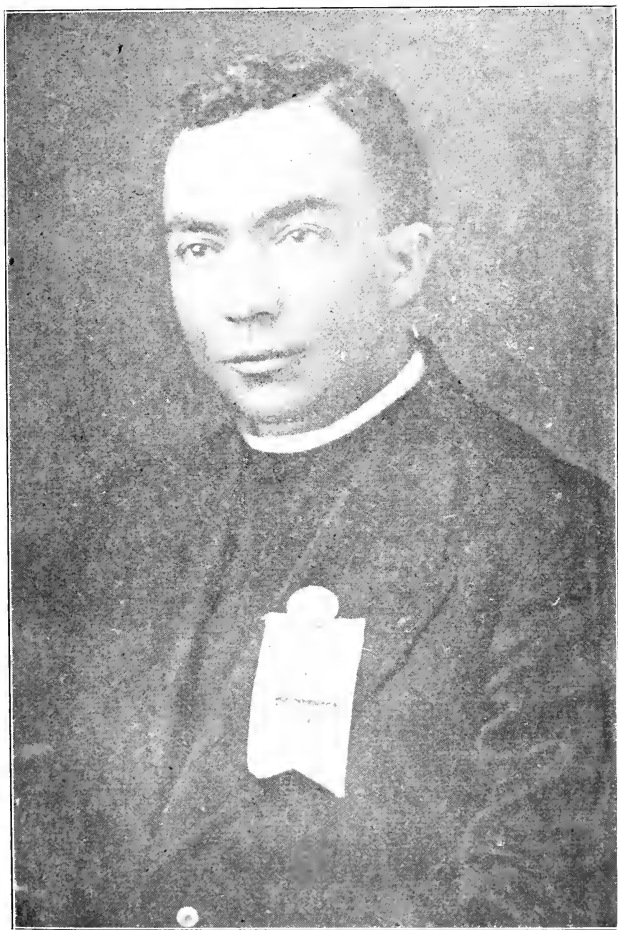
On November 10, 1909, he was married to Miss Willie Geneva Love, daughter of James Austin and Nancy Armelia Love, of Madison.

Among the secret orders, Mr. Fambrough is identified with the Odd Fellows and Pythians. He feels that the chief need of the people of his race in this country is better qualified preachers and teachers in the rural districts. He has made a worthy and successful start, and in future will doubtless exercise a growing influence for good. As might be expected of such a man, he regards the Bible as the book of books.

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## HENRY EARNEST DAVIS

Some men, who later in life do effective religious work, drift through boyhood and youth to maturity before seriously facing the responsibilities of life. There are some, indeed, like the Prodigal who waste their substance in riotous living and then when grown to manhood respond to the Divine leadership and take up the work of the Gospel ministry. The history of the Christian Church abounds with the stories of men whose redeemed lives are themselves living sermons. It must be remembered, however, that salvation is greater than salvage, and the glory of Christianity is that it saves the life—the whole life—for service when it is accepted in childhood. This is illustrated in the life and work of Rev. Henry Earnest Davis now (1919) stationed at Dawson, where he was born and reared. He was converted at the tender age of eight years and from earliest childhood was set apart to the ministry. Accordingly his schooling and other activities were shaped with that in view. He



HENRY EARNEST DAVIS.

was born at Dawson, April 11, 1887. His parents were J. W., who is the oldest Grand Lodge officer in point of service of the K. of P.'s in Georgia, and Ida Lewis Davis. His paternal grandfather was Albert Davis, who was sold as a slave away from his family and his wife was left with two children who never remembered their father.

As a boy young Davis attended school at Dawson. His theological work was done at Turner Theological Seminary of Morris Brown University, under Dr. F. R. Sims and Dr. (now Bishop) J. S. Flipper.

At the age of nineteen he joined the A. M. E. Conference at Americus under Bishop Turner and was assigned to the Rocky Mount Mission which he served one year. After that he preached at David Chapel Circuit one year, Acree Circuit one year and Bronwood two years. Here he paid off a church debt and built a parsonage. He was then sent to Arlington Station where he remained one year and paid the church out of debt, and arranged for building a new parsonage. His next work was at Mt. Gilead in Muscogee County, where he remained a single year and brought into the church one hundred converts, and led his conference in dollar money increase. He was then promoted to the St. Paul Station, Columbus, which he served for four years. Here the membership was doubled and a new house of worship erected during his administration. During the early years of his ministry he taught but later devoted his entire time to his ministerial work. As he looks back over his life he recognizes the good influences especially of his mother and of Bishop Turner. Rev. Davis was a delegate to the Centennial general Conference held in Philadelphia, 1916. He belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows, Pythians and is Chaplain of the Fourth Georgia Regiment of Uniform Rank in the latter and has represented his lodge at several meetings of the B. M. C. His property interests are at Columbus.

Rev. Davis has been married twice. His first marriage was on December 29, 1905, to Miss Mattie L. Hall. She bore him four children, one of whom survives, Bertha A. Davis. In March, 1913, Mrs. Davis passed away and on December 8, 1914, Rev. Davis was married to Miss Emma L. McKay.

Rev. Davis is a man of cordial manner and pleasing address and makes friends wherever he goes. His success is a direct negation to the assertion that a man will not be honored by his intimate friends and acquaintances. Dawson is his fourth appointment in the county where he was born and reared. Among his church officers are his old class-mates and his congregations are largely composed of his old school fellows and teachers, yet his success is phenomenal.

Rev. Davis has been secretary of almost every body with which he has been identified. He has been secretary of the following districts of his church: Albany, Blakely, Talbotton, Columbus, and is now (1919) again secretary of the Albany district.

He is a trustee of Morris Brown University and of Paine College, and Recording Secretary of the S.-W. Georgia Conference.

Gifted as an evangelist, Rev. Davis has added nearly a thousand souls to the church. He is a patriot and would have gone abroad but for a slight defect, so he led his church in war work. Although it was inferior numerically to several others, it ranked second in all of the Negro churches of Columbus in war savings stamps drives. He also served as registrar, to the satisfaction of the board.

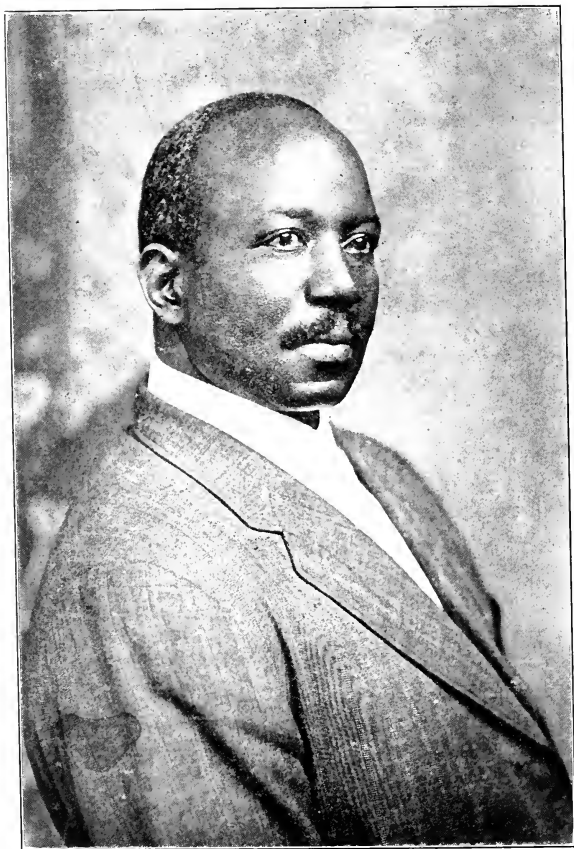
At the close of his fourth year's work at St. Paul, Columbus, he was presented with a gold-headed cane as a token of the esteem in which his people held him.

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## LEWIS BUCHANAN THOMPSON

Savannah boasts a number of Negroes who by reason of their character and ability and the extent of their success and achievements, would be a credit to any city or community. One of these is Prof. Lewis Buchanan Thompson, Director of the Mechanic Arts in the Georgia State Industrial College.

Prof. Thompson was born at Darlington, S. C., and received his educational training in the public schools of his native town, in the Georgia State Industrial College and took special work at Columbia University, New York. It is part of his highly creditable record that he not only worked his own way through col-



LEWIS BUCHANAN THOMPSON.

lege, but at the same time aided two sisters who graduated from the collegiate department of Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C. He received the A. M. degree from the Georgia State College in 1899, but six years earlier, or in 1893, had begun his own work as an instructor in that institution. He began at the bottom and worked his way up by demonstrating his ability and fitness. He served first as a student instructor without pay, and later in the same capacity at a salary of \$15 per month and then as a regular instructor at \$40 a month, since which he has risen to his present position, that of Director of Mechanics Arts.

Since beginning his professional work there, he has easily won recognition where he was best known, and has not found frequent changes, nor any change, of location necessary in order to advance and to succeed. He has also shown economy and business ability in the handling and investment of his resources, so that he is now comfortably situated and the owner of a good home.

On September 8, 1905, he was married to Miss Essie Ware Wright, daughter of Major Richard Robert Wright, a man of unusual standing and ability, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this volume. Prof. and Mrs. Thompson have two children, Louise Wright and Gladys Elizabeth.

His preferred reading is along the lines of history, vocational training, political economy and pedagogy. He has traveled extensively in America. In politics he is a Republican and in religion a Baptist.

Prof. Thompson believes that the question of the colored man's welfare depends mainly upon the man himself and can best be promoted by intelligence, reliability and skill.

He has written extensively on the subject of Industrial and Vocational Education. Among the topics he has treated and which have been given wide circulation are the following:

"The Relation of Trades Schools to the Trade Unions."

"How to Correllate School Work and Shop Work."

"The Cultural Value of Industrial Training."

"A Higher Ethical Standard for the Artisan."

"The Aim and Scope of the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Bill."

Professor Thompson is a fluent speaker and is often called upon to address his people on various questions that effect the welfare of his race. His addresses are always sane and sound and are given wide publicity in the newspapers and other periodicals of both races.

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## JAMES ARTHUR MARTIN

Rev. James Arthur Martin, D. D., one of the leading ministers of the C. M. E. connection, is now (1919) located at Macon. He is a native of Georgia, having been born at Greenville on September 3, 1876. His parents were Isaac and Ann (Bell) Martin. His maternal grandparents were both brought from Virginia to Georgia.

On July 14, 1908, Dr. Martin was married to Miss Eugenia A. Collier, a daughter of Thomas and Lucy Collier, of Barnesville. They have no children.

Whoever is familiar with conditions in Merriwether County in the early 80's will know that they did not offer favorable educational opportunities to Negro boys of that day. The schools were poor and the Negroes themselves lacked means so in the case of Dr. Martin it was necessary, even as a boy, for him to work his way through school almost from the beginning. This he says was done by sawing wood, plowing, and doing anything that came to hand.

When about seventeen years of age he was converted and, feeling called to the work of the ministry, entered Paine College, Augusta, from which he was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1899.

Looking back over his career, he acknowledges with gratitude the fact that his parents were ambitious for him and this more than any other thing inspired him in his struggle. During his college vacations and before joining the Conference, he taught for several years in Meriwether county and at Carnesville. At Woodbury, where he taught for two years, he built a high school.



In 1901 he began work as a colporter for the American Bible Society and served in that capacity for five years. In 1906 he was assigned by the Conference to the West Mitchell Street Church, Atlanta, and has since that time been in the itinerancy. He had charge of the Atlanta church for two years and finished a parsonage. From Atlanta he was transferred to Americus where he remained for four years, renovated the church and then served the Thomasville church for one year, seating the church. After this he served the St. Paul Station, at Savannah, for four years. Here he paid a \$4,000 debt and added nearly three hundred members. He was then promoted to District work and presided over the Fort Valley District one year. At the end of that time he was assigned to the Macon District.

In politics he is a Republican and was delegate to the 1916 Convention. He is an Odd Fellow and a Pythian. The Bible occupies first place in his reading, after which he inclines to the English and ancient classics.

His work with the Bible Society carried him all over the South and was a most valuable experience, out of which with his other knowledge he has come to feel that the best interests of the race are to be promoted through individual efforts to secure the best training, saving its means, buying homes and being given the ballot without discrimination. He says: "No people can safeguard their personal liberty nor promote their interests without the ballot."

In 1916 he was Fraternal Delegate from the C. M. E. Church to the General Conference of the M. E. Church sitting at Saratoga and there made a notable speech stressing the foregoing conclusions and emphasizing the need for greater freedom and for Christian character to purge the State. Dr. Martin also attended two General Conferences, one at St. Louis and the other at Chicago, and prepared historical data on the C. M. E. Church in America for the Handbook of the Churches of the Federal Council. In 1916 Paine College conferred on him the degree of D. D. in recognition of his distinguished abilities and services to the Church.

Dr. Martin is trustee of Helena B. Cobb Institute. His property interests are at Macon.

During the war he was active in the War Camp Community Service activities.

# WALLACE OLIVER POLK SHERMAN

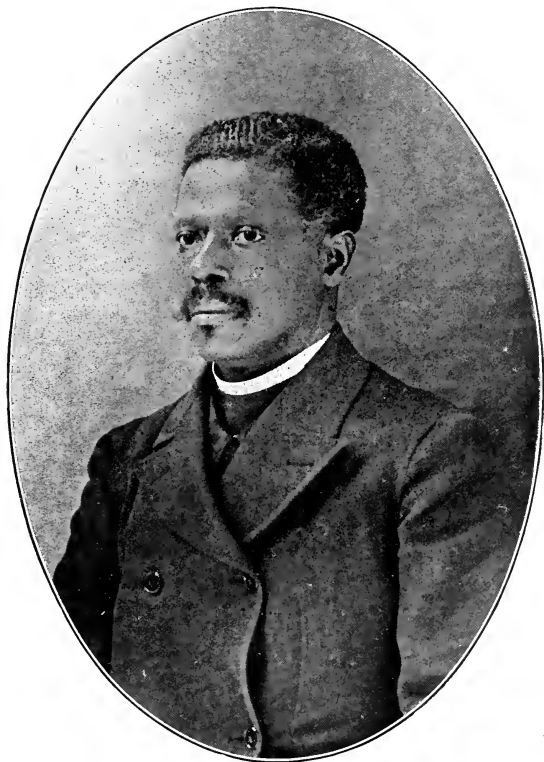
Rev. Wallace Oliver Polk Sherman, D. D., who has been in the itinerant ministry since 1879, has received into the churches of his denomination thousands of members; who was for fourteen years editor of "The Independent," and presiding Elder of the A. M. E. Church—resides at Savannah. He was born at Washington, Georgia, in the late fifties. His father, Rev. W. S. W. Sherman, was also a minister. His mother's name, before her marriage, was Miss Mary Anna Cox. His paternal grandparents were George W. and Alsie Sherman.

On February 22, 1877, he was married to Miss Jennie V. Harrison, a daughter of James and Millie Harrison, of Randolph County. Of the six children born to them, only one survives, Rev. W. O. P. Sherman, Jr., also an A. M. E. minister, of Savannah.

Dr. Sherman was denied the opportunities of an education during his boyhood days, but after Emancipation entered the public school in Jefferson County. Later he went to school in Randolph County and at Howard Normal Institute at Cuthbert. He has done a great deal of independent work in study and reading as well as correspondence courses and may be considered a man of liberal education, though he did not remain at college for graduation. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Morris Brown University in 1904.

Fortunately, he was brought up under good home influences and was converted at an early age. During the Seventies he felt called to the work of the ministry and two years after his marriage in 1877, entered the active work of the ministry, having joined the Conference at Cuthbert under Bishop Campbell.

His first pastorate was at South Bartow mission for one year. Since that time he has served the following circuits and stations: Ebenezer Circuit three years; Boston Circuit three years; Arlington, four years. Promoted to the District in 1888 and presided over the Valdosta District one year; from Valdosta he went to the Savannah District for three years, where he raised two thousand dollars on the dollar money fund. He was the first Presiding Elder to reach that mark in Georgia and the second



WALLACE OLIVER POLK SHERMAN.

in the connection. In recognition of this service he was presented with a gold medal by the connection.

From Savannah he went to the Thomasville District three years. He was then sent to the St. James Tabernacle, Savannah to raise an indebtedness of five thousand dollars and to complete the church. This was put in shape in two years and Dr. Sherman was appointed to the Brunswick District for one year and from there to the Hawkinsville District where he spent two years. He was then put on the West Savannah District for four years and from there to Waycross Station for two years. At the next Conference he was sent to Bethel Station, Quitman, one and a half years. He finished out the year on the Blackshear District. From Blackshear he went to the Fitzgerald District for four years. Here he won another gold medal for raising over a thousand dollars for the educational fund. He went from the Fitzgerald to the Waycross District for three years and is now (1919) in his fourth year on the Hawkinsville District. Wherever he has gone, Dr. Sherman's relationships with the best white people have been cordial.

Early in his ministry he established for himself the reputation of being a progressive and energetic pastor and has during the years of his ministry brought into the fold of the church thousands of members, built a number of new church houses and remodeled and completed many others. At the same time, as we have seen, he has collected thousands of dollars for the denomination as a whole.

Dr. Sherman has been a member of all the General and Quadriennial Conferences since 1884 and is the only minister in his State to enjoy that distinction. Among the secret orders he holds membership in the Odd Fellows and Pythians.

He is prominently identified with the different boards and committees of his denomination, being a member of the Board of Education and of Finance of the Georgia Conference; a trustee of Morris Brown University; also a trustee of Central Park Normal and Industrial Institute, Savannah. He is perhaps most widely known, however, and will perhaps be longest remembered, as the efficient Presiding Elder, in which capacity he has served the connection for twenty-seven years.

Dr. Sherman is an extensive reader, especially along the lines of sacred literature, philosophy, history and poetry. He has a leaning to astronomy. His work as editor of the Independent, a weekly newspaper published at Savannah for fourteen years, has made it necessary for him to do much current general reading. His property interests are at Savannah and Fitzgerald.

He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by propagation of Christianity as organized and taught by Jesus Christ. Working this out under present day conditions involves, as he sees it, the practice of the Golden Rule, the recognition of the moral laws. Efficiency and independence in economics, financial and political life; association with the best side and best people at all times; the owning of homes, especially farm homes and the establishment of a country land-owning, home-loving, God-fearing population. All these things he has tried to work out as far as possible and to practice in his own life in accordance with the doctrines which he preaches.

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## BARTOW WHITFIELD S. DANIELS

Among the colored physicians and surgeons of Georgia, few if any have been more successful than has Dr. Bartow Whitfield Samuel Daniels, of Savannah.

He was born at Milledgeville on December 18, 1872. His parents, A. R. Daniels, a farmer, and Caroline (Helms) Daniels, both slaves, were married in 1850. His grandfather, Payton, on the mother's side, was a native African, and was brought as a slave to America when a young man.

On June 7, 1896, Dr. Daniels was married to Miss Nellie L. Hall, daughter of James H. and Anna Maria Hall, of Jesup. They have one child, a daughter, Daisy Iona Daniels.

As a boy young Daniels attended the public schools of Sparta and Sparta High School, working on the farm between times. His parents were unable to assist him in securing his college and professional education, but after finishing at Sparta he began teaching, and it was principally by that means that he earned the funds to put him through Atlanta Baptist (now Morehouse)



BARTOW WHITFIELD SAMUEL DANIELS.

College, from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1892, and then through Meharry College at Nashville, where he received the M. D. degree in 1904 immediately after which he began the active practice of medicine and surgery at Sparta, removing to Savannah in 1908 where he has had a steadily growing practice; and such business efficiency has he demonstrated in handling his income that he has accumulated real estate to the value of about \$12,000 besides personal property, such as his professional equipment and furnishings for his home.

Dr. Daniels says he learned thrift from his parents and home life and gathered inspiration from school and associates; so these have all contributed in a large measure to his success. He has traveled extensively in the United States, and apart from his professional reading he prefers such books as Shakespeare, Pilgrim's Progress and the Bible, than which perhaps no better three could be chosen. He is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. A Republican in politics, he has never been an aspirant for office, but in 1908 represented his party in Georgia as a delegate to the National Convention held in Chicago, and also the one of 1916 and was each time made Honorary Vice President of the Republican National Convention. Among the secret orders he is affiliated with the Masons, Knights of Pythias, Good Samaritans and Odd Fellows, in which last he is medical examiner. He is also prominently identified with the Negro Business League. He was Commissioner of the Lincoln Centennial Exposition at Chicago in 1915.

For a number of years he was City Physician of the City of Savannah and resigned over the protest of the Mayor and Board.

Dr. Daniels' ideas as to how the welfare of his race in the state and nation can best be promoted, are briefly outlined as follows: "By training our children to be useful citizens; by educating both head and heart; by accumulating property; by having all things based upon high Christian principles, and teaching these principles both by precept and example." If anybody has a better prescription than that for the moral and material health of the race, let's have it.

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# ARTHUR BURLINGAME FORTUNE

Prof. Arthur Burlingame Fortune, one of the leading Negro educators of Georgia, who has for years been in the work, and has also been prominent in other activities of his race, is a native of Baltimore, Md., where he was born April 22, 1857. He was freeborn, as were his parents, John Alexander Fortune and Susan Ann (Williams) Fortune. His parents were devout Christians, and his father, who was a minister, was the founder of the first colored Presbyterian Church of Baltimore. Here the boy was trained in the doctrines of the Church to which he has adhered through life. He also remembers his mother as an amiable Christian woman, who endeavored to give her children high ideals of Christian living. The father had hoped and often prayed that his son might be a minister; but he chose another field, and in that has done splendid Christian work. It was this early environment which gave tone and direction to the boy's life.

He attended the Normal School of Baltimore, and when ready for college entered Lincoln University, from which he was graduated with the degree of A. B., June, 1877. Three years later the same institution conferred on him the A. M. degree. Six months after he entered college, his sainted father passed away, leaving the widowed mother with two children and no means of support except her two hands. The young man in college must now make his own way, and this he did by such manual labor as he could find to do around the university, coupled with what he could earn during his summer vacation. He was active in college athletics—in fact, was a leader; but his attention to those things ended with his career at college, when he took up the more serious work of life.

After his graduation in the summer of '77, he planned to tour the South and study its people, especially with reference to the relationship existing between the Negroes and the whites. It was then his purpose to visit every slave state and spend enough time in each to become conversant with local conditions. He was not discouraged by his lack of means, as he expected to be able to accomplish this by teaching as he jour-





ARTHUR BURLINGAME FORTUNE.

neyed from state to state. Prof. Fortune has not carried out his plan as originally made, though he has traveled over the entire country and is conversant with conditions in the states, especially in the South.

He taught his first school in the fall of 1877 at Staunton, Va., and the next twenty years of his life were mainly devoted to that profession. On coming to Marietta, Ga., in the late '70's, he saw a great field, and remained in that town as a teacher and general instructor for six years. Such was the record he made there, that he was called to the head of the Rome, Ga., public schools, where he remained for six years. He has been active in the counsels of his race and has prospered with the years. While the teaching profession has never been remunerative in Georgia, he has by industry and careful economy purchased a comfortable home. He is now (1919) in the postal service.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, the Masons and has for several years been the presiding officer in the local lodge of each.

On July 10, 1890, he was married to Miss Sadie Lauviece Pentecost, of Rome. Mrs. Fortune is the District Grand Most Noble Governor of the Household of Ruth.

Prof. Fortune was at one time active in the work of the Republican party and was delegate to the National Convention which nominated General Harrison for the Presidency. He has also frequently attended the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church as Commissioner from his Presbytery. He is Elder in his local church and Superintendent of the Sunday School.

Prof. and Mrs. Fortune have adopted and reared five children, all of whom have been educated. They both believe that for the race, as for themselves, industry, energy and economy are essentials. Prof. Fortune makes most of his living on his own place.

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# STARLING AUGUSTUS JENNINGS

Rev. Starling Augustus Jennings, of Augusta, who a few years ago turned aside from what promised to be a successful business career to take up the work of the Baptist ministry, is the son of a popular preacher of Augusta, Rev. Wade J. Jennings. The mother of our subject was, before her marriage, Miss Louisa Stiles. His paternal grandmother was Lucinda Jennings and his grandmother on his mother's side was Jennie Stiles. He was born November 26, 1885, and grew up on the farm in Columbia County. When he came of school age he went to the rural schools and later to the Peoples Institute at Thomson. Later he entered Walker Baptist Institute where he has yet to complete his Theological Course.

Growing up in a religious atmosphere with Christian environment he early identified himself with the church, having been converted at eleven years of age. He was licensed to preach on June 14, 1916.

On December 26, 1906, he was married to Miss Mary Lizzie King, of Evans, Columbia County. To this union was born two children, Marie Estelle and Edward Lee Jennings. Mrs. Jennings enters heartily into the work of her husband. He was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry June 14, 1917. Having moved to Augusta he ran a meat market for a number of years which he gave up when the increasing work of the pastorate claimed all his time. For one of his years Rev. Jennings is a ready speaker and is in demand as an orator not only on religious occasions but at patriotic and public gatherings. Looking back over his boyhood and youth he is inclined to credit his father with those good influences which have meant most to him in life. He is pastor of the Olive Grove Baptist Church at Appling, where he has preached for two years, the Solid Rock Baptist Church whose pastorate he accepted in 1918, and where the church has been rebuilt at a cost of \$5,000, and the Good Hope Baptist Church, at Augusta, to which he was called in 1919. In politics he is a Republican, though not active.



STARLING AUGUSTUS JENNINGS.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Pythians and the Odd Fellows. Rev. Jennings has through his father's library had access to many good books which he has found helpful. He believes that the great need of the race today is simply to wake up to the opportunities and the obligations of the hour. Though a heavy loser in an Augusta bank failure, Rev. and Mrs. Jennings are buying a home in Augusta.

He is a regular attendant at the meetings of the denomination in which he is already well known and deservedly popular.

Rev. Jennings was elected Moderator of the Peoples Progressive Educational Union of Columbia County, June 28th, 1919. The Union is the only one of its kind in the county. Its object is to establish and maintain a public school at or near each church composing the Union. Rev. Jennings says "The union is doing great good for the rising generation in the rural districts of Columbia County."

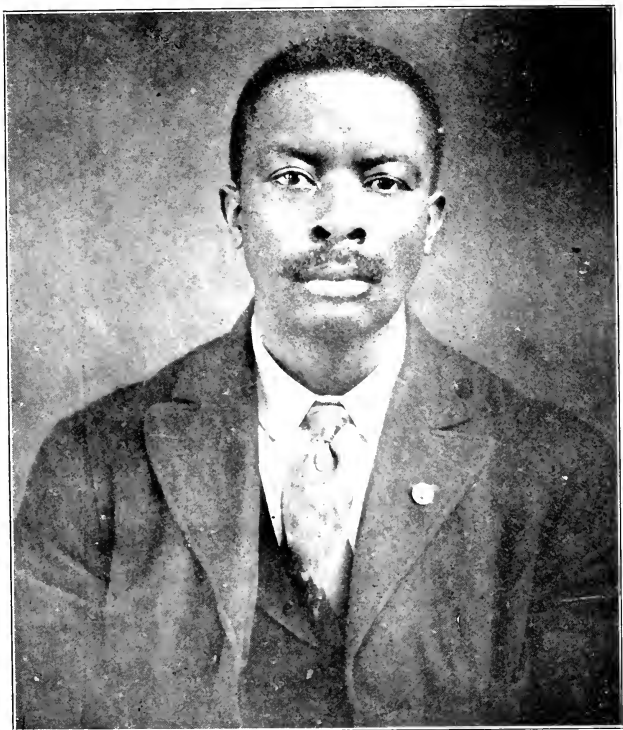
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## JOHN CONLEY DEAN

The Baptist Church has claimed a larger number of the Negroes of the South than any other denomination. This has perhaps been due to the simplicity and directness of their doctrine and especially to the fact that each Baptist Church is an independent organization entirely free from any outside interference or direction either in matters of creed or of administration. In a church so organized, progress depends peculiarly on the character of leadership which is to say the ministry.

Among the stalwart young men of the denomination in Georgia must be mentioned Rev. John Conley Dean of Augusta. He is a native of the sister State of South Carolina, having been born at the historic old town of Ninety Six, on Feb. 13, 1872. His parents were Charles and Margaret Dean. His grandparents were Philip and Clarissa Williams, the grandfather being known as Little Phil.

As a boy young Dean lived on the farm and attended the Horse Pen Graded School at Kirksey. Later he went to



JOHN CONLEY DEAN.

Walker Baptist Institute for his literary work and completed his Divinity Course at Walker Baptist Institute, 1918.

From an early age our subject was religiously inclined. He experienced the new birth at twelve and entered upon the work of the ministry in the fall of 1899. He was ordained in 1902. Before entering upon the pastorate, Rev. Dean had learned the trade of shoe and harness maker at which he worked steadily for about eight years. He taught school for several years, first at Ninety Six and later at Pebble Hill. It is as a minister of the Gospel however that he is best known. He began his ministerial work in South Carolina and pastored Union at Abbeville, Durham Grove at Spartanburg, Hopewell at Laurens and Cedar Grove at Cold Point. His first regular work in Georgia was the Good Hope Church at Augusta. He has also served Bethany at Wadley, Pine Hill at Louisville, White Grove at Adrian, Mt. Pleasant at Thomson, Walnut Grove at Appling, Mt. Sinai, at Augusta and Bethlehem at Graniteville, S. C. He is now (1919) at the last two churches named. The churches to which he has been called have prospered under his administration and new houses of worship have been erected at the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Augusta, and made some changes at Bethlehem, Graniteville.

On December 19, 1894, Rev. Dean was married to Miss Sophia Byrd, a daughter of Mitchell and Maria Byrd. Of the four children born to them two are living. They are Martin and Inez Byrd Dean. He has two sons dead, Philmore Dean and John C. Dean, Jr.

Rev. Dean though not active in political matters is a Republican. He belongs to the Masons, the Odd Fellows and the Pythians. He has had the opportunity to travel considerably in America. He is a regular attendant at the conventions of the denomination. He owns a comfortable home on the Milledgeville Road in Augusta.

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# ISAAC SANFORD STAFFORD

Dr. Isaac Sanford Stafford, of Valdosta, has been a sort of pioneer among his people in Valdosta and Lowndes County in more ways than one. He was the first colored doctor to locate permanently in Valdosta and for more than twenty years he has been going in and out among his people and has rendered large service in a professional way. Not only so, but he is also a devout Christian and the pastor of the Washington Heights Church of God. So it will be seen that he must be an unusually busy man.

Had he been inclined to hoard his fees he might have been a man of wealth, but he has been liberal with his means and has been blessed in the using of what God has given him.

Dr. Stafford was born in Lowndes County. His father was Isaac Stafford, a farmer, and the son of Adam and Lizzie Stafford. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Annie Lucas. She was a daughter of Julia and Moses Lucas.

Dr. Stafford was married on November 1, 1889, to Miss Leah C. Walker, of Brooks County. Of the three children born to them, two are living. They are Dr. Paul M. H. Stafford, of Jacksonville (now, 1919, in the service), and Mrs. Maud White.

As a boy young Stafford worked on the farm and laid the foundation of his education in the public schools of Lowndes County. Later he went to Cookman Institute at Jacksonville and finally to Central at Nashville. When ready for his medical course, he matriculated at Meharry where he remained to win his M. D. degree in 1897.

With a loan of only fifty dollars from his father, he worked out all the balance of the money necessary for his education both literary and professional. He did this on the farm and by teaching in Brooks and Lowndes Counties.

On the completion of his course he came home and began the practice among the people who knew him best. His success shows that he made no mistake.

As a preacher and religious worker his activities along the line of church work claim a great deal of his time. Next after



the Bible and the necessary professional reading he likes biography and current literature. He carried on some farming operations until recently when he sold his farm property. He is not now identified with the secret orders nor does he take any active part in politics.

Such is the story of a man who began life in an humble way, who has never been afraid of any amount of work and who has not permitted the weight of professional duties nor the pressure of business to crush his soul or shut him out from the active work of the church.

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## ISAIAH DAMON WILLIAMS

Dr. Isaiah Damon Williams, of Savannah, Ga., is one of the most brilliant and successful young colored physicians of his city and state. He was born at Marion, S. C., on October 4, 1879. His father, Peter Williams, a farmer, is still living (1920). His mother's maiden name was Mariah Curry. His paternal grandfather died in Florida in 1894 at the age of seventy. His father (Isaiah's great-grandfather) was an Englishman. Isaiah's paternal grandmother came directly from Africa. She died in Florida in April, 1913, at the age of one hundred and four. On the maternal side, the grandmother still lives at Marion, S. C., and is in her nineties. Her father was a white man and slave owner, whose name was Curry.

Dr. Williams left South Carolina when five years of age. His literary education was obtained in the public schools and at Dorchester Academy in Liberty County, Ga. From the fourth grade in the latter institution he worked his own way, and graduated with first honor in 1903. For his medical course he went to Meharry Medical College, where he also worked his way through, winning his M. D. degree in 1907, since which time he has been engaged in the practice of his profession in Savannah. He says that the parental influences were perhaps predominant in the formation of his character; that in his choice of a profession, he "just naturally wanted to be a doctor." From the success he has already attained in these few short



ISIAH DAMON WILLIAMS AND FAMILY.

years, it seems evident that he was naturally gifted along that line. He does a general practice with considerable attention to surgery. He has also continued to be a close student of the literature of his profession, keeping abreast of the times through the medical magazines and other literature; and the energy and steadfastness with which he pursued his course in school and college days are still apparent and still proving effective in his chosen life work. He has also shown good business ability and has accumulated considerable property.

On June 23, 1908, Dr. Williams was married to Miss Blanche Evans Clarke, daughter of Rev. William Armstead Clarke and Margaret (Davis) Clarke, Walhalla, S. C. She was educated at Dorchester Academy where she was a first honor graduate and later a teacher. They have two children, Isaiah D., Jr., and Margaret Elizabeth Williams.

Dr. Williams has traveled extensively in America, having visited every city in Canada and the United States, and as far south as Mexico City. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion a Congregationalist. He believes that the most important thing concerning the welfare of his race in the state and nation, is the education of the masses.

With his natural gifts, his thorough equipment and growing powers, the future holds the promise of continued growth and yet larger success.

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## SAMUEL MILTON COOK

During his lifetime few men in the Baptist ministry in Middle Georgia were better known than the late Rev. Samuel Milton Cook, of Hawkinsville. He was a native of Alabama, having been born at Pushmatoka in that state, August 3, 1866. His parents, William and Margaret Cook, were both slaves. They farmed after Emancipation. His paternal grandfather was Sam Miller, whose wife was Patsy. His maternal grandparents were Cy and Polly Manier.

From early boyhood our subject was intelligent and industrious. He was brought up to do all sorts of work on the farm.

His father being poor, sent him to school only three weeks and later hired him out for wages.

He earned his wages, and more. He was reliable and was trusted by his employer as a "lead hand." Soon he was able, by extra work at night and on Saturdays, and by doing odd jobs, to "hire his time," that is pay his father the stipulated amount of his wages and still put aside some money with a view to entering school. Finally when he went to the public school at Butler, Ala., he made such rapid progress that his employer encouraged him to go again, and thus he completed the public school course.

The next year after he was out of the public school he farmed and made \$140.00. With this he entered Clarke University where he remained for two years. The young man, now better equipped, found the way easier. He began teaching at Eastman. He took the normal course at the Georgia State College, after which he taught for several years in Dodge County.

He had been converted as a boy of fifteen, in Alabama. After coming to Georgia, he joined the Zion Hill Baptist church and was by that church ordained to the full work of the ministry in 1888, and called to be its pastor. He served Zion Hill for eleven years. His have been long pastorates as a rule. He served the congregation at Dermis Gift twelve years; New Mt. Moriah three years; Harmony twenty-two; Macedonia eleven; Spring Creek one; Springfield at Hawkinsville, seventeen years. He had a fruitful ministry and added thousands of new members to the churches he served. He was for several years moderator of the Middle Georgia Association. After entering the ministry he took his Theological Course at Central City College, which institution conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

On Dec 23, 1889, Dr. Cook was married to Miss Ida Lee Dillard, a daughter of Lewis and Rose Dillard, of Pulaski County. They had three children, Emma (Mrs. Bryant), Carrie (Mrs. James), and Ida May (Mrs. Coley). On July 28, 1918, Dr. Cook passed to his reward.

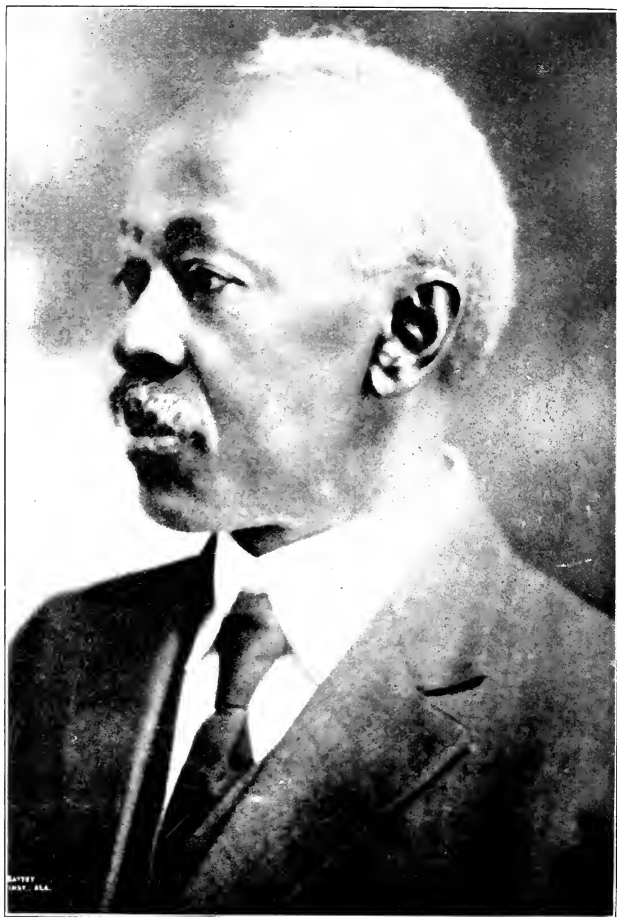
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## RICHARD ROBERT WRIGHT

To those who have been accustomed to think of the American Negro as he was fifty years ago, just emerging from slavery, or as they have read of him in the newspaper, which, as a rule, has dealt in a more or less sensational and inaccurate way with the lower element of the race, rather than giving a just account of its better class, it would be a source of no little surprise, to learn how many of them have by sheer force of merit and ability won their way, not only to competence in material things, but to extensive learning and large influence and public service.

Prominent in the latter class, we find Major Richard Robert Wright, A. M., LL.D., President of the Georgia State College, at Savannah. He was born at Dalton, Ga., toward the close of the slavery period, on May 16, 1855, son of Robert Wright and Harriet Lynch. His grandmother, Lucy Lynch, was a native of Africa, and a member of the Mandingo tribe, while his grandfather Lynch was part Indian.

Dr. Wright obtained his education at the Storrs School, in Atlanta, and Atlanta, Chicago, and Harvard Universities. His degree of A. B. was conferred by Atlanta University in 1876; that of A. M. by the same institution in 1879, and that of LL.D. by Wilberforce in 1898. Liberal and thorough as has been his education, he found no royal road to learning, but walked three hundred miles to Atlanta to attend the Storrs School, and from that time on worked his own way through, while at the same time supporting an invalid mother. Perhaps nothing gives a clearer insight into the real character of the man and the main-spring of his success, than his fidelity to his mother and the fact that he had under the circumstances the courage, stability and strength of determination to complete his education and make thorough preparation for his life work. The story of such examples, with the inspiration which they carry to the younger generation cannot be too greatly multiplied; and as in his school and college days, so throughout his life, Dr. Wright has proved himself alike in character and intellect a strong man.



RICHARD ROBERT WRIGHT.

Dr. Wright began his educational work at Cuthbert, Ga., in 1876, as Principal of Howard Normal School. In 1880 he went to Augusta and became Principal of the Ware High School, and eleven years later, in 1891, President of the Georgia State College at Savannah, which position he still fills with distinguished ability, as he has, indeed, been highly successful in them all. His worth and executive ability have been recognized by his colleagues, who in 1879 elected him president of the State Teachers' Association, which place he filled for ten years, and in 1908 of the National Colored Teachers' Association which place he filled for four years. In addition to his educational work he has served in other important public capacities, having been postmaster at Industrial College under Cleveland's administration, and Special Agent of the United States Land Office from 1884 to 1885, and during the Spanish-American War served as Paymaster, with the rank of Major.

On June 7, 1877, Maj. Wright was married to Miss Lydia Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Matilda and Alexander Howard, of Columbus, Ga. Of the nine children born to them, eight are now living, as follows: Rev. R. R. Wright, Jr., a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Pennsylvania; Julia O. Wright, an A. B. graduate of Atlanta University, and Drexel Institute, Philadelphia; Essie Ware (Mrs. Thompson), educated at Fiske University; Lillian M., a graduate of Georgia State College; Edwina M., graduate of Atlanta University, Pratt Institute, New York, and Dr. W. H., of Meharry, Nashville, and Temple University, Philadelphia; Emanuel Crogman, at Howard University; and Harriet Beecher, at State College. It will thus be seen that he has given all his children superior educational advantages.

In common with most men of intense religious sentiment and engaged in earnest work for the uplift of his fellows, Maj. Wright has found his most helpful reading in the Bible and works of biography and history. He has also traveled extensively, throughout the United States, across both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and through most of the countries of Europe, which has given him an opportunity to study human life and human problems from many angles.

Dr. Wright has written "The Negro as a Discoverer," "Brief Historical Sketch of Negro Education in Georgia," and "The Negro as an Inventor."

While his attention has been devoted mainly to the uplift of the people of his race and to preparation for that great work, he has at the same time, by wise and careful management, accumulated a competence in material things.

He is a consistent member of the Congregational church. His idea as to the best method of promoting the best interests of the people of his race, put in characteristically clear and concise form, is well worth noting: "Education and religion among all the people, black and white." There can be no question that intelligent Christian character on the part of all, would bring about a condition of universal prosperity and happiness.

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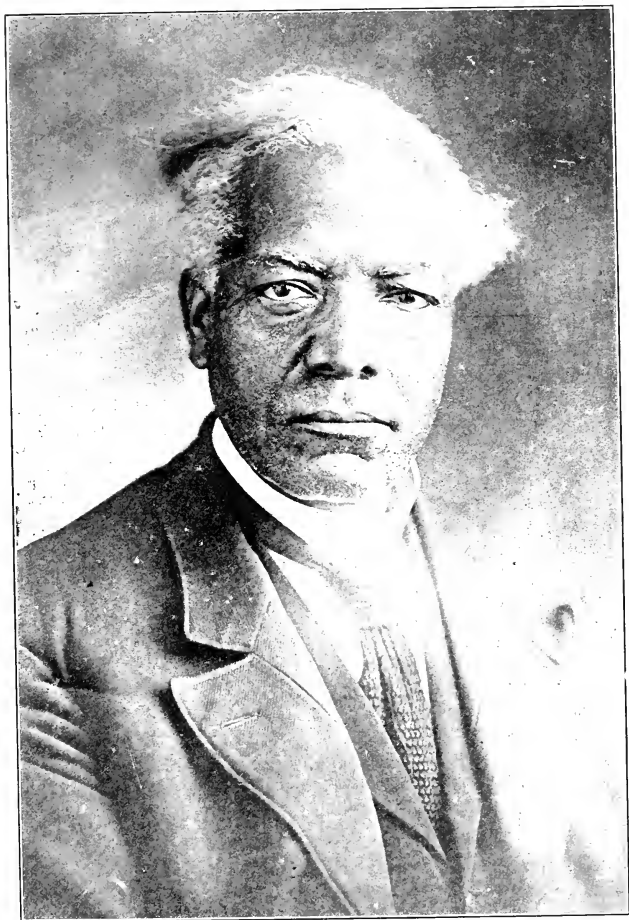
## JAMES BUCHANAN BORDERS

Rev. James Buchanan Borders, whose life in the Baptist denomination has been fruitful of good works, was born in Stewart County, during the war, on January 12, 1862. His father, Purnell Borders, was a Baptist preacher. His mother was Rachel Corbett Borders. Back of this he knows only that his mother's mother was Bella Corbett.

He grew up in Stewart County and attended the country public schools. He was converted at the age of twelve and joined the Baptist church. He had given but little serious consideration to his education till some five years later when he felt called to the work of the ministry. He then managed, through private instruction, to fit himself for college and attended the Baptist College at Atlanta for five years, completing the course under Dr. Roberts who was president at that time. Since entering the ministry the degree of D. D. has been conferred on him.

After finishing his course, he taught school at Forsyth, but was later called to the pastorate of the Liberty Baptist Church at Cuthbert, where he combined teaching with preaching also for one year. At the end of that time he was called back to Forsyth to take charge of the school and as pastor of the Baptist Church. He remained in this work for five years, after which he moved to Macon to take charge of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, where he preached for four years. Since then he has





JAMES BUCHANAN BORDERS.

served St. Marks nine years, Antioch in Twiggs County, Swift Creek and Unionville Churches, Macon. All these churches have had a remarkable growth under his ministry, some of them having doubled in membership. Under his leadership the congregation at Swift Creek has erected one of the best country houses of worship to be found in Georgia. While no accurate record of the number of members baptized has been kept by Elder Borders, perhaps 1500 would be a conservative estimate.

In addition to taking care of his own work, he has assisted other pastors frequently in evangelistic services. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Middle Georgia Association and is Trustee and Treasurer of Central City College. He is a Pythian and a Mason.

In July, 1894, he was married to Miss Leila Birdsong, of Putnam County, who was educated at Spelman Seminary and was a successful teacher before her marriage. Their children are James B., Jr., Raymond R., Georgia B., Wm. E. H., Minnie B., Mary Cornelia, and Thomas L. Borders. Elder Borders owns a comfortable home and considerable renting property in Macon, is interested in some farming property and has some outside investments in New York.

He considers the most striking need of his people in Georgia today is for closer unity and co-operation.

He is a regular attendant at denominational gatherings where he is frequently given important committee assignments. During the war his sons were in the service and Rev. Borders took an active part in all the campaigns and drives.

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## WILLIAM EDWARD GREY

That the medical profession should attract a young man is a compliment to both his energy and mental capacity, for first there must be the foundation of a college education and then the four years Medical course. All this requires considerable money and years of close application before there is any return. These things are illustrated in the life and work of Dr. William Edward Grey, of Thomasville.

He comes to Georgia from Mississippi, having been born at Vicksburg in April, 1878. His father was Silas Grey who was a son of Peter and Sarah Grey. His mother's name was Mollie and she was a daughter of Diek and Patsy O'Reiley.

Dr. Grey was married October 8, 1912, to Miss Jessie E. Duvall, of Washington, D. C. She is an educated and accomplished woman. Two children have been born to them. One passed away. The living one is named Wilhemina.

Young Grey attended public school in Mississippi, and college at the Alcorn A. & M. College in the same state. He won his B. S. degree in 1903. From December, 1903, to July, 1905, he was letter carrier at Yazoo City, Miss.

He spent the year 1905 at Harvard University.

He completed his Medical course at the American Missionary Medical College and won his M. D. degree in 1910 at Battle Creek. He had valuable experience as nurse in a Sanitorium and from October, 1911 to 1912, was in the Freedman's Hospital, Washington, D. C. At that time he expected to settle in Detroit, but after some investigation came South to Americus, Ga. After two months there, he went to Thomasville, in 1913, where he has since resided and where he has already built up a fine practice. His office is right in the heart of the best business section of Thomasville.

Dr. Grey is a Mason, and in politics is a Republican, though he confines his activities to voting. He is a member of the C. M. E. Church. Strange as it may seem, Dr. Grey's favorite reading is Law and if he had been left to his own inclinations he would have studied law. His mother, however, induced him to take up Medicine. His success shows that she made no mistake. Though assisted by his mother while in school, he put in his vacations working and after reaching Medical College, made his own way unaided save his Senior year, 1919, which being a year of panic, his mother came to his rescue. He owns a comfortable home and other property at Thomasville.

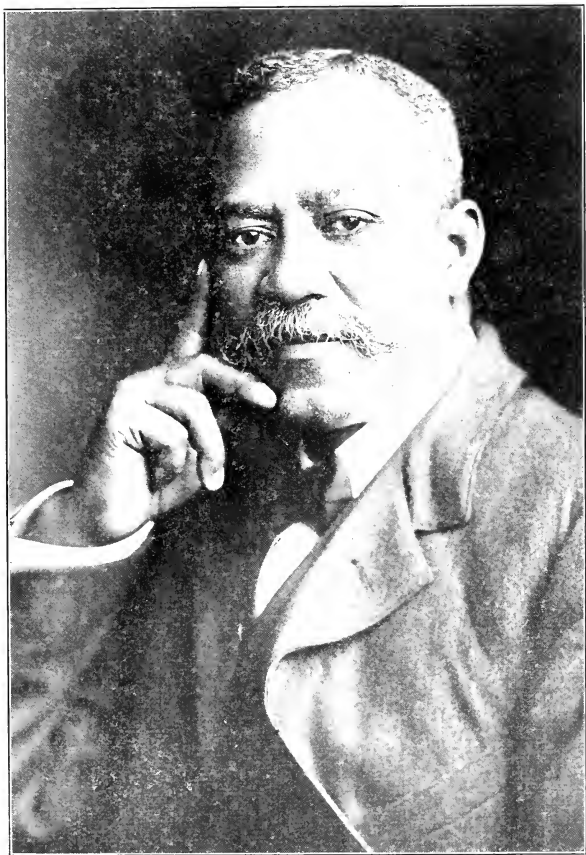
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# JULIUS CLIFTON STYLES

Julius Clifton Styles, former treasurer of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of Georgia, resides at Dawson, where he was born during the war, December 4, 1863. His father, William H. Styles, was a preacher, and his mother was Rachel (Black) Styles. His grandmother, Rosa Black, was an Indian of the Cherokee tribe. His grandfather was a slave belonging to the Lees of North Georgia. Rachel Black was stolen from her mother when a small girl.

Young Styles had hard enough times as a boy, and when he aspired to an education found it necessary to make his own way in school. He was one of a large family, and his father was unable to assist him. During the entire course, he received only ten dollars from home. He received his preparatory training at Dorchester Academy, in Liberty County, and later entered Atlanta University, from which he was graduated in 1891, with the degree of A. B. As soon as he was sufficiently advanced to secure teacher's license, he began teaching in the public schools of Liberty County in 1882. In this way, together with what he could earn about the University, he was able to earn sufficient means to keep up his studies. By the time he had completed his course, he had already made for himself something of a reputation as a teacher, and in 1891 was elected to the principalship of the High School of Columbus, where he remained till 1894. Following his work at Columbus, he was principal of the Dawson Public School for several years, and served for several terms in like capacity in the Hawkinsville Public School. He also taught for several terms in the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home, at Americus. In all these places he sustained himself as an efficient and progressive educator.

In politics he is a Republican, and has taken an active part in the councils of his party. In fact, he has been a delegate from Georgia to each of the Republican National Conventions since 1896, with one exception. He has not sought office for himself, however. He is a member of the A. M. E. Church, in which he has been steward and trustee and has been superintendent of his local Sunday school for nearly twenty years.



JULIUS CLIFTON STYLES.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Pythians and Odd Fellows.

He believes that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by better training "both mental and industrial," and by according to the Negro the rights granted to him in the Constitution of the United States, and by encouraging him to become a better citizen. These are the things which he has worked out in his own life, and for which he stands, as a leader of his race.

On September 15, 1891, he was married to Miss Annie McGhee, a daughter of Rev. Daniel J. and Mary McGhee of Atlanta. Mrs. Stiles was educated at Atlanta University and is herself an able teacher. They have one son, Bertrand Clifton Styles. The family owns a comfortable home at Dawson. Mr. Styles is now (1919) engaged in general merchandising at Dawson.

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## CHARLES CICERO CARGILE

Among the men of the A. M. E. Connection who have served well their day and generation, and whose work has been richly blessed, is Rev. Charles Cicero Cargile, of Savannah. He has held the biggest and best appointments in the state, which he has used, not for his own enrichment but for the advancement of the cause of Christ.

He is a native of the old town of Monticello, where he was born before the war, the date of his birth being Feb. 24, 1858.

His parents were Mitchell and Ellen Cargile. The family moved to Atlanta during or just after the close of the war when the boy was only about six years old. He attended Storr's School, then a popular institution in Atlanta, and there laid the foundation of his education. Mitchell Cargile was an undertaker and the boy helped about the place in the carpentering end of the business. When ready for college he entered Atlanta University. When able to secure a teachers license, he began teaching during vacations and continued after he was out of college. His teaching work was mainly in Clarke, Oglethorpe, Jasper and Coweta Counties. During his young manhood days, he served



CHARLES CICERO CARGILE.

as Superintendent of the Sunday School at Wood's Chapel, Atlanta. After deciding to enter the ministry he attended Howard University for his theological training. While at Howard he served as superintendent of the Sunday School at Washington and in Georgetown. He graduated with honor from the Theological Department. In the early eighties he joined the Conference under Bishop Shorter.

His first appointment was the Stone Mountain Circuit where he preached for two years. Though this was a small work he was successful from the very beginning and the following year was sent to the Madison station where he remained for two years. For the next three years he preached at Washington and then went to St. John's Church, Columbus, two years. He was then promoted to presiding eldership, and assigned to the Augusta District, over which he presided four years. From the Augusta District he was assigned to the Milledgeville District over which he presided two years. He was then sent to St. Phillips Station, Savannah, where he preached three years. From Savannah he was sent to Big Bethel, Atlanta. These two churches are considered the best station appointments in the State. After three years he was transferred to the Macon Conference and given the Forsyth District. At the end of his administration on that district he was sent to Stewart Chapel, Macon, and from there to Americus for a short while and then back to the Forsyth District again for four years. After that he was appointed to the Savannah District over which he has presided for six years.

Dr. Cargile has for years been a prominent figure in both the General and the Annual Conferences in which he has held important official positions, and committee assignments. He is a Mason and was formerly more or less active in the Odd Fellows and the Pythians. While he has kept no exact record of the number of members he has brought into the church he has had a fruitful ministry and has added thousands to the churches which he has pastored and paid thousands of dollars on church debts, but he considers his work of soul saving paramount to all other. The D. D. degree was conferred on him by Morris Brown University. Next after the Bible, of which he is a close student, his favorite reading is History.



In 1888 Dr. Cargile was married to Miss Fannie Eggleston, of Madison, Ga. She was a daughter of William Carter Eggleston, and Winnie Eggleston. His wife received her school training in the public schools and at Knox's High School, Athens, Ga.

They have four children: Rosa E., who married Dr. J. C. Atkinson, of Macon, is a graduate of Morris Brown, a music teacher and an accomplished pianist; Winnie L., attended Morris Brown, graduated from Ballard Normal, Macon, was Salutatorian for her class, is an honor graduate of the College of Science and Arts, Howard University, and a graduate of the Social Service Training School of New York, has taught in the High Schools of Baltimore and of Sedalia, Mo., and is now (1919) at the head of the colored branch of social service work, Jacksonville, Fla.; Lattie E., studied at Morris Brown, graduated from Ballard Normal, took special training at the Teachers' Training School, Cheney, Penn., is a music teacher and public school teacher, Savannah; Julia M. is in High School and performs well on the piano. An adopted daughter, Mary L. Sawyer, has had exceptionally fine domestic training and is considered a model house-keeper.

Dr. Cargile's district headquarters is 921 Fortieth St., Savannah, Ga.

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## JAMES HENRY PONDER

In the life of a man like Rev. James Henry Ponder, of Cordele, there is much that is worthy of imitation and much that should serve to inspire every struggling country boy, even though he may have been born in poverty and reared in obscurity. Some things stand out in the character of Rev. Ponder and account for his success. From boyhood, he was progressive, and anxious to do something worth while. He has simply trusted God to make the way when duty calls. His loyalty to what he conceives to be his duty is with him a cardinal principle. When he is convinced that God calls to a certain line of action or to a certain field of work, he seeks to obey, feeling that God must be obeyed rather than man, if the church is to succeed. He is



JAMES HENRY PONDER.

fearless in his Christian work, refusing to be defeated or even discouraged by difficulties. More than once he has been called to go through the deep waters and has seen his dearest plans thwarted, but like Paul and other heroic souls, he has not allowed these things to interfere with his work in the world. He has gone ahead and the way has opened up before him even as it opened up before the children of Israel at the Red Sea in the long ago. In the cities and towns where his work has been done, Rev. Ponder has worked for peace and harmony and has never split a church.

He was born near Forsyth in Monroe County, March 12, 1888. His father, Anthony Ponder, died when the boy was only about twelve years of age, so that he lacked the guidance and protection of a father during the days of adolescence and youth. His mother, before her marriage, was Celia Winkley. She was spared to hear the son, in whom she took great pride, preach once in the old home church. She passed away in 1909.

As a boy, young Ponder grew up on the farm and attended the local public school in an irregular sort of way. Mr. D. H. Green later took the boy into his home as a sort of butler and general helper with the children. He was loved by the children and had the confidence of their parents. Seeing young Ponder's aptitude and eagerness to learn, Mr. Green assisted him at night and afterward sent him to night school. When he was about sixteen years of age, he gave his heart to God and joined the St. James Baptist Church at Forsyth, and became active in the work of the church. Soon after that, he went to Savannah where he lived with his brother and was employed as a hotel waiter. He moved his church membership to the First African Baptist Church of which the late Dr. E. K. Love was then pastor.

Some years later he dedicated his life to the ministry and was licensed to preach in 1901. After that he entered night school at Savannah, but in order that he might better prepare himself for the ministry, was sent by his church to Central City College at Macon. By order of the First African Baptist Church of Savannah, he was by Prof. W. E. Holmes, ordained to the full work of the ministry. He was graduated from the Theological Department of Central City College in 1904. On the completion of

his course, he was called to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Cuthbert, on the recommendation of Dr. J. M. and Mrs. Nabret.

During his pastorate of four years at Cuthbert, there was a healthy growth in the membership of the church, the building was repaired and some old debts cleared up. While at Cuthbert he was married to one of his members, Miss Mollie May Jackson. The date of their marriage was August 15, 1906.

From Cuthbert he went to Sardis, First Baptist Church of Dawson, which he served two years. Here he built a fine parsonage, himself leading the subscription list. He resigned the Dawson church and went to Macon to complete his academic course. While there Mrs. Ponder passed away and he was forced to abandon the course, and moved to Hawkinsville and went back to the farm with Rev. S. M. Cook for one year.

While residing here, he preached at Free Providence, one of the best churches in that section; Zion Hill and Pleasant Grove. Having accepted the call of the First Church at Abbeville, he served that congregation for seven years, remodeled the building and built up the membership. He was then called to the Macedonia Church at Waycross, which he served four years, with great success and acceptability.

While on the work at Waycross he was married to Miss Rosa May Shaw, of Fitzgerald. They have one son, James H. Ponder, Jr.

About seven years ago he accepted the call of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church at Americus, which he continues to serve.

After his marriage, he moved to Cordele where he has since resided. The Mt. Olive Church has greatly prospered under his hand and a new building is now (1920) contemplated. Pastor and people work harmoniously together.

Rev. Ponder is in demand for revival work both in his home state and in Florida. He is a Trustee of Central City College and a member of the Executive Board of the local association.

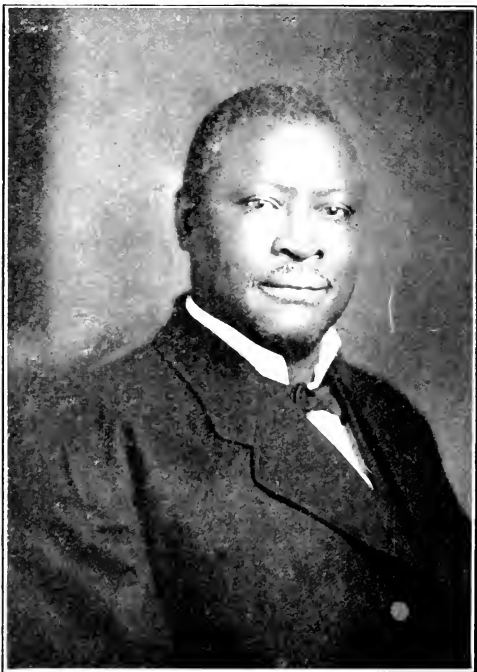
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## FRED FORD

No one ever thought that the little colored boy, Fred Ford, who was born in George Town, S. C., about fifty years ago, would have grown to be the enterprising and successful business man he is today in commercial and financial circles of his people in Savannah. He, himself, during his early life, was strong and robust, always possessing an ambitious mind. His father was Fredrick Ford who was the son of Richard Ford. His mother before her marriage, was Mary McCullough, the daughter of Ben and Malinda McCullough. His father died while the boy was quite young, and he was reared by his mother. When he became sixteen years of age he left home. For about five years he worked on a Santee River steamboat, he began as a deck hand, then was promoted to a second mate, and later made second pilot. On April 17, 1895, he was married to Miss Jennie Mitchell, of Savannah. They have five children: Charlesetta, Clynetta Celeste, Eve, Fred Adam, Mary Lydia, and Eureka Jeanette Ford.

He is giving his children the educational opportunities which as a boy he was denied. He worked in the freight department at the wharf for about ten years. His next employment was as a longshoreman. Here his strength and skill enabled him to make a record as a leader. While working at this he made five dollars a day, but did not work during the summer months. A white friend whom he met in railroad work induced him to work during the summer in his store, where he kept a retail grocery and liquor business. He readily learned the business and in the fall was induced to remain. Later when the proprietor had prospered and decided to sell out and go away on account of his wife's health, he encouraged the clerk to take his place and continue the business. Knowing that he knew the details of the business, he felt that he would make a success, which he did. He was accustomed to working from six in the morning until twelve o'clock at night. He kept his own counsel and continued to prosper as a rule his investments proved to be successful.

After a few years in business he decided to invest some of his money in real estate, which he has done to a great advantage. At one time he leased a nearby park known as Styles Park, which



FRED FORD.

was very profitable during the summer. In 1916 a number of enterprising men, induced Mr. Ford to join them in organizing an Insurance Company which resulted in his putting up the necessary cash deposit of \$5,000 five thousand dollars, which made him treasurer of that popular and growing concern known as the Chatham Mutual Life and Health Insurance Co.

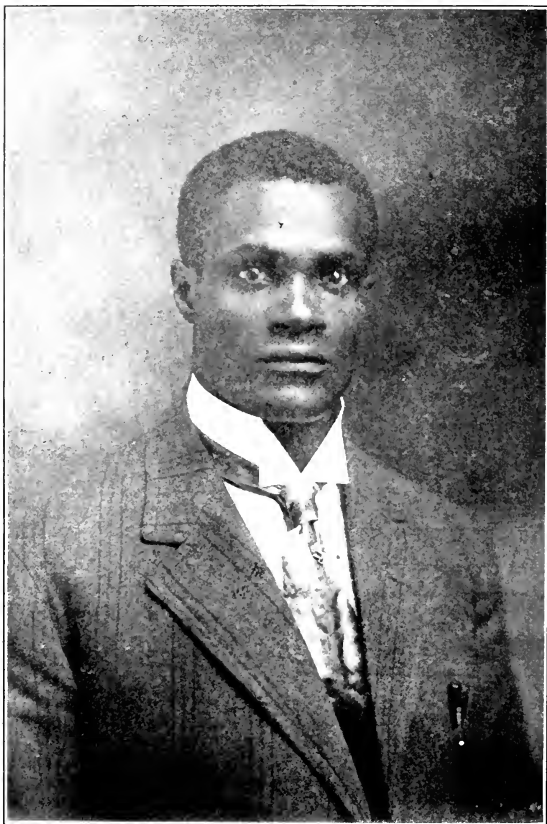
So he has gone on from one business success to another until he is recognized as one of the leading business men of Savannah, Georgia.

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## JACOB LIEUCESTER SHIRLEY

Dr. Jacob L. Shirley, of Dawson, is a native of Jamaica, British West Indies, and still maintains his British citizenship. He was born December 15, 1884, and is a son of David and Elizabeth (Daniel) Shirley. His father was a farmer. The Shirleys are long lived. His grandfather, Richard Shirley, who was a contractor, lived to the ripe old age of ninety-two, and his grandmother, Nancy, to ninety-four. His maternal grandfather was Jacob Daniel.

As a boy, Dr. Shirley attended the Jamaica public schools, and when he was eighteen years of age came to the United States. He is a self-made man of the type which need not be ashamed of the job. After coming to the States, he entered the Southern Christian Institute, in Mississippi, from which he was graduated with the degree of B. S. in 1906. He has been accustomed to rely on his own efforts, and worked his own way through school. Having decided to enter the medical profession, he matriculated at Meharry College, Nashville, from which he was graduated with the M. D. degree in 1910. He earned the money for this course by working at whatever offered an opportunity to earn an honest dollar. During several of his vacations he was in the Pullman service, and this took him over the States and Canada generally, and gave him a splendid opportunity to acquaint himself with the habits and customs of the people in every section, and gave him an insight into things American which has been helpful to him in his business and professional career. He is a



JACOB LIEUCESTER SHIRLEY.



man of marked intelligence, and an extensive reader of general literature, as well as the current magazines and papers. He is of a progressive turn of mind, and on locating at Dawson in June, 1910, organized the Union Drug Company, now under different management. He was also the first colored professional man in his section to use an automobile in his practice. As the character of his professional work became known, his practice grew. He has good business judgment and has prospered financially. After the epidemic of Influenza broke out in 1918, though greatly rushed and treating many cases, at a disadvantage, he lost only two cases out of first 1,200 treated.

He is a member of the Christian denomination, and is loyal to his church, although there is no local organization of his denomination at Dawson. Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons, Odd Fellows, and a number of the smaller secret benevolent societies. He is medical examiner for a number of these, and is also medical examiner for the Standard Life Insurance Company.

On November 3, 1912, he was married to Miss Ethel Matthews, of Dawson, who is a graduate of Americus Institute. They own an attractive home in Dawson, and have already made for themselves a prominent place in the business, social and professional life of the community. They have three children, Gladys Olga, Jacob L., Jr., and Georgia Elizabeth Shirley.

Dr. Shirley is a member of the State Medical Association.

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## ALBERT BERRY COOPER

Rev. Albert Berry Cooper, president of Payne College, Cuthbert, Ga., is a native of Valdosta, where he was born May 17, 1872. His parents were Daniel and Mary (Murray) Cooper, both slaves. Back of these, he knows nothing of his ancestry.

Young Cooper's father died when he was about six years of age, and the struggle which the mother had to maintain the family was hard enough. Early it fell to the lot of the boy to assist in the support of the family, so that he had to work in the daytime. In this way, his early educational opportunities were



ALBERT BERRY COOPER.

confined to night school. Though poor, his home life was good and he found his school life inspiring also. When grown older and able to secure a teacher's license, he would teach school in the summer time and would himself go to school in the winter. When he had saved sufficient means, he entered Beach Institute, at Savannah, from which he was graduated in 1890. Later he entered Atlanta University, graduating in 1896, with the degree of A. B. He took his theological course at Morris Brown University, which he finished in 1908. He bears the degree of B. D. (1913) and A. M. (1914) from Morris Brown.

Prof. Cooper was converted at the age of about 15 and entered the ministry in 1899, joining the Conference at Augusta under Bishop Turner, in 1902.

He began teaching at eighteen, and from that age has kept up his work as a teacher since entering the ministry as a preacher to the present time. In 1896 he was elected principal of the Cartersville Public School, where he remained till '98. From 1899 to 1905, he was principal of the Eddy High School, Milledgeville, Ga., and from 1905 to 1908 had the chair of Mathematics at Morris Brown University, and was secretary of the Board of the College. In 1908 he entered the active pastorate, and was assigned to the Blakely station, which he served for two years. In 1910 he taught at Milledgeville again. During 1911 and 1912, he was on the work at Dawson station, and was then appointed to the presidency of Payne College, Cuthbert, which position he now holds (1919).

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Odd Fellows, Pythians and Supreme Circle. He believes that the spring of progress is to be found in the better home life of his people, in Christian education, and in the development of habits of thrift. His preferred lines of reading are history and poetry.

On August 18, 1897, he was married to Miss Julia M. Bown, a daughter of John and Mary Brown, of Atlanta. They have seven children, whose names are Albert Berry, Clarence Brown, Julia Morse, Edith, Henry McNeal and Anna Cooper.

Dr. Cooper owns a comfortable home in Cuthbert.

Rev. Cooper has attended two general conferences, the one meeting at Norfolk in 1908, and the Centennial Conference in Philadelphia in 1916.

During the war he was active in all the patriotic undertakings and was chairman for the Third District, composed of fifteen counties in the W. S. S. campaign.

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## CORNELIUS BARCUS BARNES

Rev. Cornelius Barcus Barnes, a Baptist minister of Waycross, has been in the work since boyhood. He was born in Lee County, Feb. 14, 1863, but the family moved to Dougherty County while he was still a child. His parents were Ephraim Barnes, a Baptist preacher, and Rose Barnes, who was born on St. Simons Island.

As a youngster, Cornelius Barnes worked on the farm in Dougherty County, and attended school at Palmyra.

He was converted at the tender age of ten and immediately felt the call to preach. It was years later, however, before he entered upon the active work of the ministry. He was licensed in 1891 and ordained two years later, in 1893.

In December, 1887, he was married to Miss Ella Kelly, a daughter of Wallace and Matilda Kelly, of Waycross. They have three children, Cornelius B. Jr., Nathanael and Verd Ella Barnes.

His first pastorate was St. Matthews in Appling County, which he served for fourteen years. In addition to that he has pastored Elsie five years, Nicholas five years, Willacoochee eight years, and St. Pauls at Waycross fourteen years.

New houses of worship were erected during his ministry at St. Matthews and at Nichols. Since entering the ministry hundreds of members have been brought into the church by him. He has been active in evangelistic work. He is a regular attendant at the State and National Conventions as a member of the Trustee Board of Central City College also of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention.

His favorite reading consists of the Bible and sacred literature. His work in Waycross has been very successful. He began in 1904 without a member. Since that time over 900 have been received and there is at this time a membership of nearly five hundred.



CORNELIUS BARCUS BARNES.

In politics he is a Republican. He is also a Mason, being Past Master. He considers Christian education perhaps the greatest need of his race in Georgia today.

Elder Barnes owns one of the most comfortable homes in his part of the city and a small tract on St. Simons Island. He runs a farm out from Waycross.

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## NEWTON HOPKINS WHITMIRE

The young men of the present day can have little conception of the privation and hardships of the boys, who in the early days of freedom, determined to secure an education and make for themselves a place in the life of the race. The life and work of the Rev. Newton Hopkins Whitmire, of Savannah, illustrates this. He was born at Newberry, S. C., Feb. 1, 1859, and was about six years of age when the war closed and his people were freed.

His father was Wash Whitmire, a slave. His mother, also a slave, was before her marriage, Amanda Autrey. His grandparents on mother's side were Charles and Mittie Autry.

Young Whitmire grew up on the farm where he worked till he was seventeen. He then took up railroad work and was a fireman for nine years. As a boy he had attended the Newberry school. Some years later he went to Atlanta Baptist, now Morehouse, College, for a while. Just about the time he reached mature manhood, he took two important steps. The one was his marriage on March 7, 1880, to Miss Alice J. Tinsley, of Union, S. S., the other was his conversion at about the age of twenty-one. He joined the Baptist Church and almost immediately felt called to the important work of the ministry. He shrank from it however and fought it off for some time. Finally he surrendered to the divine leadership, and was licensed to preach in 1884. In 1891 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry and began what has been a very fruitful ministry. His first pastorate was at Burroughs. He took hold of the work in earnest and a house of worship was erected during his administration. He accepted the call of the Mt. Tabor Baptist Church at Savannah and has



NEWTON HOPKINS WHITMIRE.

served that congregation for twenty-six years. He has also pastored Steep Hill church two years, Philadelphia in McIntosh County, three years, Evergreen in Camden seven years, Carnegie and Emanuel in McIntosh seven years, New Hope in Bulloch County six years and St. Paul in Toombs County two years. New houses of worship were erected at Evergreen, New Hope, Carnegie and Emanuel. A new church is now being built at St. Paul. He now (1919) pastors Mt. Tabor, St. Paul and New Hope.

Rev. Whitmire is prominent in the work of the denomination. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Mt. Pleasant Calvary Baptist Association and of the Mt. Pleasant Calvary Sunday School Convention. He is a member of the Educational Board and was for some time vice president of the State Convention. For years he has been a regular attendant at the meetings of the National Convention.

Rev. Whitmire devotes his whole time to the work of the ministry, although he taught school for five years after coming to Savannah. Next after the Bible his reading has been along the lines of literature on Africa and on prayer. He is identified with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. Although Rev. Whitmire's opportunity for schooling was limited, he is the friend and supporter of education and believes that the permanent progress of his race awaits the right sort of education, which to him means Christian education.

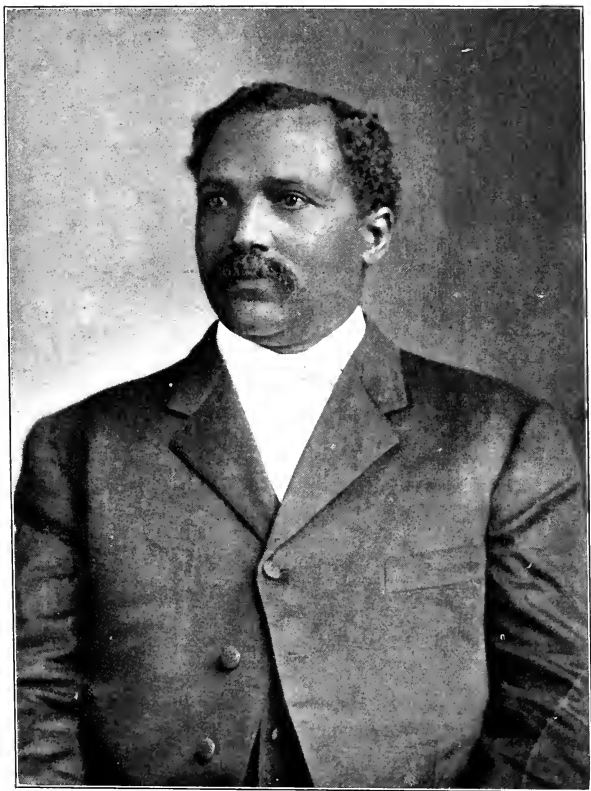
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## SAMUEL SCOTT BROADNAX

If one were looking over the State with a view to selecting half a dozen of the outstanding men of the Baptist denomination of Georgia, Rev. Samuel Scott Broadnax, of Thomasville, would be included in the list.

He comes from upper Middle Georgia, having been born in either Gwinnett or Walton County, Feb. 22, 1858. His father was Harden Broadnax. His mother's name was Frances. His mother was brought from Virginia to Georgia a long time before Emancipation. Born in the slavery period our subject, of course, had no opportunity for schooling till after the close of





SAMUEL SCOTT BROADNAX.

the War. From that time, however, and after he had realized that an education was available, he became ambitious to know and went to the rural schools such as they were. Not content with what they provided, he passed from them to the Atlanta Baptist College (now Morehouse), where he completed the Normal Course in 1886.

Two years later he received from the institution the degree of D. D. The degree of A. M. was conferred on him by the Selma University. Born and reared on the farm, he learned to do all sorts of hard work and thus earned the money with which to go to school. Of course after reaching the point where he could teach the way was easier but at no time was his way strewn with roses. He taught school in Dekalb, Bartow, Cobb and Thomas Counties.

After he was grown to manhood he was converted and became active in the work of the church. At about the age of thirty he yielded to the call to preach the Gospel, and was regularly ordained in 1888, by the Antioch Church at Lithonia. Even before this he had been doing Missionary work under the joint auspices of the white and negro Baptists of Georgia. His first regular pastorate was the First African Baptist Church, of Thomasville, where the erection of a new house of worship was begun. Later he accepted the call of the First Church at Quitman, which he has served continuously for twenty three years. Here a new brick house has been erected to accommodate the steadily growing congregation. For three years he has pastored the Century Baptist Church, at Boston and improved the church. He preached for awhile at Metcalf.

Not only is Dr. Broadnax a successful teacher and preacher but he is also a good business man and has been interested in farming and the grocery business.

He is active and prominent in the work of the denomination. He is Moderator of the Thomasville Association, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Central City College, and president of the Second District Convention. He is regular attendant at the State and National Conventions and is a member of the Board of Education of the latter.

Dr. Broadnax is a Republican and is active in the councils of his party. He was a delegate to the Convention which nominated President Taft. He belongs to the Pythians.

Since going to Thomasville he has prospered and his investments are in and around the thriving little city. He believes that Christian Education is the great need of the race.

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## CHARLES WALTER PROTHRO

The M. E. connection in Georgia claims the services of men well equipped for their tasks, men who are making their impress upon the intellectual and religious life of the race. The educational policy of the denomination has been justified in the quality and character of its ministry. Among the substantial men of the connection who have made steady progress must be mentioned Rev. Charles Walter Prothro now (1919) stationed at Waynesboro. He is a native of Spalding County, having been born near Griffin, Aug. 19, 1876. His father, Sidney Prothro, who still survives (1919), is a farmer and is a son of Jere Prothro. Rev. Prothro's mother was Harriet (Wesley) Prothro, a daughter of Charles and Parthena Wesley.

Young Prothro went to school at Griffin as a boy. He was converted while still in his teens and felt called to preach before he was twenty.

He continued his studies through the grammar grades at Clark University, but was financially unable to remain at that institution till graduation. Accordingly he entered the State College at Savannah, where he completed his course. His Theological work was done at Gammon Theological Seminary.

He joined the Conference in 1906. His first appointment was Warren Chapel in Macon, Ga., which he served one year. He pastored the Rocky Ford Circuit two years and the Sylvania Circuit three years.

He was then appointed to the Savannah charge where he successfully remained for three years. From Savannah he went to the Greenville Station one year and from there to his present work at Waynesboro. Rev. Prothro has had a fruitful ministry.



CHARLES WALTER PROTHRO.

The work on every appointment under his wise administration has been strengthened. Considerable building and repair work has been done and many new members added. He taught school while at Rocky Ford and Sylvania and has always been the friend and active supported of education. He is Secretary of the Savannah Conference.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons. His property interests are at Savannah. His conception of the highest needs of his race is equity in the courts and good school facilities for education, and cooperation from his white friends to help him rid his people of those things which do not make good Christian Citizens.

On December 26, 1911, he was married to Miss Nora Burns, of Sylvania. She was educated at Greensboro, N. C., and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. They have one child, Willie B. Paul Prothro.

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## SOL CHARLES JOHNSON

Sol Charles Johnson, editor of the Savannah Tribune, and a forceful writer as well as successful printer and publisher, was born at Savannah, November 20, 1868. His father, John H. Johnson, was a carpenter and a millwright. The grandfather of our subject was also named John H. Johnson and was a carpenter and a millwright. Young Johnson enjoyed the advantages of the public schools of Savannah, completing the course in 1883. His father was anxious to have him go to college, but he was equally anxious to get to work, and so took up the printer's trade in 1883. Seven years later, in 1890, he was made editor and manager of the Savannah Tribune, with which he has since been identified in one capacity or another. Immediately on his taking charge of the paper and the plant, both were improved, and this improvement has kept pace with time, till now the Savannah Tribune is a real force among the Negroes, and the establishment of which Mr. Johnson is head is one of the prosperous business concerns of the city of Savannah. After he had had general direction of the paper for nine years,



SOL CHARLES JOHNSON.

he bought all interests, and has since controlled not only the policy of the paper but the management of the business. A site was purchased on West Broad Street and a two-story office building erected. At this writing (1919) fourteen persons are employed in connection with the plant, which in addition to printing the Tribune, conducts a job printing business. A linotype machine has been put in, and modern presses installed.

While the influence and the advice of the editor of the Tribune are frequently sought in political matters, he has not himself sought political preferment.

He is a Republican in politics and was delegate to the 1916 National Convention at Chicago. He is secretary of Georgia State Executive Committee and is a regular attendant of State Conventions. He is vice-president of the Wage Earners' Savings Bank, vice-president of the Enterprise Mercantile Co. and a Director of Standard Life Insurance Co.

He is a member of the Congregational Church in which he is clerk and trustee, and stands high in several leading secret orders. He has been Grand Secretary of the Masons since 1895, and is Grand Patron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and is also past officer in both the Odd Fellows and Pythians, as well as being identified with several local clubs. When asked how the best interests of the race in the state and nation might be promoted, he responded: "By living unselfishly and improving every line of endeavor."

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## DANIEL WRIGHT

The visitor to Savannah going out West Bryan Street comes upon a stately structure which he is told is the First Bryan Baptist Church, the history of which goes back to the beginning of organized negro work in America.

The pastor of this church is Rev. Daniel Wright. He is still a young man. Though born in Jacksonville, Florida, about thirty-eight years ago, he was reared in Savannah. His parents were Emanuel and Betty Wright, both of whom passed away while the boy was still young. After their death he was brought to Savannah and lived with his uncle, Benjamin Wright.

He had gone to school in Jacksonville until he was ten years of age. On coming to Savannah he was employed by Mr. E. M. Connor, whose beneficent influence on his life, Rev. Wright recalls with much gratitude.

He was taught much in the Connor family and in his intimate personal contact with Mr. Connor, gained much that cannot be had from books, though he was taught to use books to the best advantage.

He was converted in 1890 and identified himself with the church of which he is now the pastor. He became active in the work of the church and was for a number of years deacon and treasurer of the church.

He was licensed to preach in 1906 and the following year was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry.

His home church was not slow to recognize the ability and attainment of the young man who had lived his life in their midst, and in 1910 called him to the pastorate of the historic old church, which he has since served acceptably.

He ministers to a membership of nearly four thousand and is a prominent figure in the gatherings of the denomination. He is a member of the Executive Board of the State Convention, Treasurer of the Berean Association and a member of the Reformatory Board.

He is a popular speaker and preaches to large congregations. The church property has greatly improved under his administration.

In addition to this great congregation. Rev. Wright also preaches at the Nicholsonboro Baptist church in Chatham County.

His favorite reading next to the Bible, is History and Biography. He is director of the Chatham Insurance Company. He has not been active in politics but is identified with the Masons, the Pythians and the Odd Fellows.

While his own work ties him down to the city he is of the opinion that the best interests of the race are to be promoted by building up the farming interests and developing country life.

On April 17, 1891, Rev. Wright was married to Mrs. Della Bruin, of South Carolina. They have one son, Joseph Wright.



# DAVID ALEXANDER GORDON

One of the most energetic and successful negro business men of middle Georgia is Prof. David Alex. Gordon, who resides near Sandersville. He is a native of Bulloch County, having been born at Register in that County, just after the close of the war, September 22, 1866. His father was Asa Gordon, a farm hand during the days of slavery and a farmer on his own account afterward. His mother, Daphnie Pride, before her marriage and is still living (1920). Her parents were Charlotte and David Pride and were from Tusculum, Ala. Prof. Gordon's paternal grandfather was Asa Silvey.

As a boy young Gordon attended the country public schools, but early began to aspire to a higher education. The way did not appear easy. He made a good record, however, in the public school and when he could pass the teacher's examination had little difficulty in securing a school as he was known as an earnest, capable youth. In this way he earned money to pursue his education. He entered Atlanta Baptist, now Morehouse College, from which he was graduated in 1892. He worked while there even, sweeping the floors and serving a part of the time as assistant librarian.

His first school was at Summit, Emanuel County. After that he taught at Wrightsville, Cuthbert, Dublin, Thomson, Warthen and Royal. At the latter place he remained for nine years and did a work that is a monument to him. He built up a school in the community and gave ground for the house that was later erected. His work was recognized by other educators and in '93 and '94 he had charge of the Teacher's Chataqua at Albany.

Successful as he was as a teacher, Prof. Gordon has been even more successful as a farmer and a business man.

Locating in Washington County after his marriage, he began to buy land and has steadily increased his holdings till he now has 286 acres of good farming and timber land near Sandersville. In addition to good crops of cotton, he makes an abundance of grain and produce and stands well as a business man.

On December 8, 1896, he was married to Miss Anna Wicker, of Warthen. Of the six children born to them four are living.



DAVID ALEXANDER GORDON.

They are Judson W., Linnie M., Charley A., and Daniel L. Gordon.

Prof. Gordon is a Republican and has been active in the work of his party. He is a member of the county committee and frequently attends the local and state conventions. In 1910 he was Census Enumerator and made a record of which he is justly proud. He is a member of the Baptist Church, in which he is a deacon. He was for a long time Superintendent of the S. S. He is financial agent of the Washington Institute, treasurer of County Fair Association of Washington County, and clerk of the Washington Association.

He believes that the most urgent need of his race is Christian Education.

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## ELIAS BARNEY BROWN

Rev. Elias Barney Brown, D. D., now (1919) a prominent presiding elder of the A. M. E. Connection, resides at Ocilla and is one of the leading colored ministers of South Georgia. He is a native of Georgetown, Quitman County, where he was born just before the outbreak of the war, on December 10, 1860. His father was Elias Brown. His mother who before her marriage was Millie Smith, was a capable cook and dressmaker.

Young Brown, after the war, attended school at various places including Eufaula public school, Macon High School, Byron High School and one term in Atlanta. When it is remembered that he was left motherless in infancy and was compelled to make his own living almost from boyhood, his struggle for an education will be appreciated. During the hard years of his boyhood he would sometimes work in the day and attend night school and when conditions were reversed he would work at night and go to school in daytime. He was taught to read and write by the white people by whom he was reared. He remembers with peculiar gratitude Mrs. Mary E. Smith who took him as a baby, taught him to pray at her knee, to read and write. As he grew up her husband, Col. Milton A. Smith, put him in charge of much of his work and trusted him with important re-



ELIAS BARNEY BROWN, SON AND DAUGHTER.

sponsibilities. Later he took day school work and taught at Georgetown, Arlington, Red Hill and various other places for a period of nine years.

In 1876 he was converted and joined the A. M. E. Church. The following year he felt called to preach. He joined the Conference at Eufaula under Bishop Jesse P. Campbell, in 1879. His first appointment was White Oak Mission which he served one year. He then came to Georgia and his next appointment was the Union Cross Roads Circuit where he preached one year. His next work was the Arlington Circuit which he served for two years, built a parsonage and repaired the church. From Arlington he went to Red Hill Circuit for two years and built churches at Sand Hill, Green Pond and Jordans Chapel. Following this he went to Springdale Circuit two years and repaired the church. His next appointment was the Cedar Springs Circuit, where he pastored two years and added three hundred and eighty new members. From there he went to Bluffton Circuit for two years, where he built Ebenezer and Greens Chapel and added two hundred and thirty-eight members. From Bluffton he went to Mobleys Pond Circuit the biggest Circuit at that time in the State, and remained there for two years. Here he remodeled the parsonage, built one new church and renovated another. He then went to Rocky Hill Circuit, Cairo, where he resided for three years and took in two hundred and forty-eight new members and built three new churches; Evergreen, Ebenezer and Little Bethel. He then went to Lumber City one year and built a parsonage and one church at the same time adding one hundred and eleven new members to the churches. After that he was assigned to the work at Rochelle for two years, where where he remodeled two churches and one parsonage. His next work was at Stillmore where he served for two years, built two churches and a parsonage and added to the church rolls one hundred and twenty-three new members. Liberty City was his next appointment and held him for two years. At this point he remodeled three churches and received into the membership of the church one hundred and eighty-two new members. Tifton followed with three years of service where two churches were built and another remodeled. He was then promoted to the Quitman District over which he presided for five years. He

then went to the Waycross District for five years. He was successful from the beginning as a Presiding Elder. From the Waycross District he went to St. Timothy Station, Valdosta one year, bought ground for new church building and went from there to Gaines Chapel Station, Savannah, to do some special work. There was great improvement in the work both financial and spiritual. From Savannah he went to the Ocilla Station for four years where he rebuilt church and parsonage and developed a good congregation. He was then transferred to the Augusta Conference and made Presiding Elder of the Louisville Circuit and is now (1919) in his fourth year. Here as on other fields he has had abundant success.

Dr. Brown has been in the active work of the ministry for more than forty years. He has brought into the church nearly thirty-five hundred new members. He has also had considerable newspaper experience. He edited the Peoples Choice for four years at Tifton.

Miss Hallie Q. T. Brown, the daughter, and Mrs. Lucy E. Brown, the wife of Dr. E. B. Brown, are now teaching the City High School at Abbeville, Ga., with marked success.

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## HENRY FURMAN TAYLOR

The popular pastor of the first Baptist Church of Brunswick, who has struggled up from a place of poverty and obscurity to one of usefulness and leadership among his people in Georgia, was born at Elko, in Houston County, December 15, 1880. His father, William Taylor, was a farmer. Before her marriage his mother was Louise Poole. Back of his parents he knows little of his ancestry, except that Jane Taylor was his grandmother on the father's side and Solomon Poole the grandfather on his mother's side.

He was married on April 6, 1905, to Miss Lula Mae Jones, a daughter of Lewis and Sallie Jones, of Macon.

As a boy he attended the public schools of Houston County. At the age of seventeen he went to the State college for two years and learned the painter's trade which was of service in making



HENRY FURMAN TAYLOR.

his way through college. It was while at the State College that he felt the call to the ministry, and decided to go to Central City College, Macon, where he won his bachelor's degree in 1908, the same institution conferring on him the degree of A. M. in 1912. He took his theological course there also, graduating in 1906. After this he did post graduate work in Hebrew and Greek at the University of Chicago. All his life since boyhood he has been a very busy man, having found it necessary to work his own way in school and on this account a longer time was required for the completion of his education than would otherwise have been necessary.

At the age of about fifteen he was converted and joined the Spring Creek Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach on the First Sunday in January, 1901, and began his work as a minister on that day. On August 2, 1903, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Rev. L. C. Pierce, at Spring Creek Baptist Church. His first pastorate was the Zion Hill Baptist Church, in Dodge County, which he accepted in 1903 and served for three years. Here he rebuilt the church. He was then called to the First African Baptist Church at Wrightsville, where he preached three years and rebuilt the church twice on account of fire and storm. From Wrightsville he went to the Friendship Baptist Church, at Americus and was then called to the First Church, Bainbridge for three years, here completing the church and was at the same time principal of the Flint River Normal Institute for four years and also served the church at Cuthbert half time.

From Bainbridge he went to the First Church at Valdosta in 1914 and remained to and a half years and remodeled the church. In 1916 he accepted the call of the First African Baptist Church of Brunswick, which he has served to the present (1919).

His ministry has been a fruitful one and in the last sixteen years he has baptized at least a thousand people into the fellowship of the church.

He takes an active part in everything affecting the interests of his people and speaks freely to them on political matters. He is identified with the Pythians, Odd Fellows, Masons and the Supreme Circle. He has bought a comfortable home and other



property and is gradually building for himself a select library. His preferred reading has been along the line of the Bible and sacred literature.

Rev. Taylor is a trustee of Central City College and Secretary of the State Sunday School Convention and clerk of the Mt. Olive Baptist Association. He is a regular attendant at the Conventions, both State and National and is secretary of the Educational Board of Georgia. He is in demand as an orator and preacher of anniversary and commencement sermons.

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## ISAIAH ANDREWS HARRIS

Rev. Isaiah Andrews Harris, a popular Baptist minister of the Baptist denomination, and moderator of the Union Grove Baptist Church, has baptized over fifteen hundred members into his own churches to say nothing of the large number brought into the church through his administration at revival services in the churches of other pastors. His reading, his thinking and in fact all his activities are along the line of his ministerial work. Born in Randolph County and educated at the Dawson public schools and at Americus Institute, his work has been confined mostly to South Georgia with some evangelistic excursions into the nearby states.

The date of his birth was May 18, 1872. His parents were William and Eliza (Hallman) Harris. Very early in the life of the boy there developed an ambition and a determination to make something of himself. The way was not easy. His environments were not encouraging. Money was scarce and difficulties arose on every hand. When about seventeen he committed his ways to the Lord and chose that good part which could not be taken away from him. A year later it was revealed to him that he must preach the Gospel. He was licensed by the Shiloh Baptist Church and in May, 1909, was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church.

Prior to this he had worked on the farm and as a young man had learned the carpenter's trade. This latter he found of great service when it came to the building of new churches. Next



ISAIAH ANDREWS HARRIS.

after the Bible his favorite reading has been the lives and sermons of great evangelists like Moody and Sam Jones. He is a trustee of Central City College and has for four years been the Moderator of the Union Grove Association.

He keeps in close touch with and usually attends the State and National Conventions. He is an active Mason and Odd Fellow. He owns a comfortable home on Twelfth street in Cordele, and other property.

Rev. Harris' first pastorate was at Conly Grove Terrell County, which he served for four years. The house was repaired. Since then he has pastored Zion Hope, DeSoto, over two years, repaired the church and added eighty-two members; Wall's Crossing, Schley County, five years, built a new house of worship; Friendship, Marion County, one year, built a new church; Leslie, eight years, repaired the house, then rebuilt, and Shady Grove, Cordele, repaired and painted. Recently he accepted a call from the church at Hatley. He now pastors about a thousand people. He makes friends wherever he goes and draws good congregations.

On August 15, 1906, Rev. Harris was married to Miss Addie Lee Green, of Sumter County. She bore him two children, Booker T. and Isaac Harris. Later the mother passed to her reward and subsequently Rev. Harris was married to Miss Annie May Berryhill, of Cordele. They have one son, Isaiah Andrews Harris, Jr.

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## FREDERICK ADOLPHUS ELLIOTT

Of course most of the Negroes of the States are native and are descendents of the ante bellum slaves. Occasionally, however, one finds a member of the race from some other part of the world and frequently they are the most intelligent and progressive members of the community in which they live. The subject of this biography, now fully identified with Georgia, comes to us from Central America, and is a native of Panama, where he was born October 21, 1886. His father Henry Elliott, is a baker by trade. His mother before her marriage was Miss Rebecca Morris.

Young Elliott went to school at the Wesleyan School at Colon where he pursued the elementary and High School branches. He learned the trade of tailor and worked at that till he left for the States. He was ambitious from boyhood, and contact with white doctors from the States encouraged him to look forward to a professional career for himself. In 1910 he sailed for New York, reaching that port on April 25th.

On the third of May he reached Chicago and on the 21st of the same month went to work at the Auditorium Hotel. Three weeks later he was employed as porter by the Sears, Roebuck Company, which position he held till September, 1913, when he left to take up his dental course at Meharry College. In fact he was held in such high esteem by his employers that each summer he would go back to Chicago and put in his summer vacation with them. He completed his course and won his D. D. S. degree in the spring of 1917. He went back to his old job till the fall of 1918, when he had sufficient means to secure equipment and begin the practice of his chosen profession. In October, 1918, he began the practice at Valdosta, but in 1919 moved to Quitman where he now resides.

On January 11, 1919, Dr. Elliott was married to Miss Anna Ellis a daughter of Richard Benjamain, of Valdosta. She was educated at Tallahassee and taught in the Georgia schools before her marriage.

Dr. Elliott is a member of the Methodist church. He has had opportunity to observe conditions both North and South and has reached the conclusion that the one great need of the race is education.

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## TYMES RODOLPHUS EPPS

Some so called successful men narrow their lives down to the point where there is no room for anything but business. The cultural side of life is ignored and all religious interests are neglected. Mr. Tymes Rodolphus Epps, of Macon, has not made that mistake, but has kept alive the desire to grow along all proper lines.



TYMES RODOLPHUS EPPS.

He is a native of the old county of Talbot, having been born at Baughsville on February 20, 1882. His parents were John and Amanda (Dukes) Epps.

As a boy, young Epps attended the local public schools known as the Baughsville Academy. As soon as he was able to secure a teacher's license he began teaching in the public schools himself and thus earned the money for his college course, which otherwise would have been beyond his reach. For his college course he went to Central City College from which he was graduated with the A. B. degree in 1911.

On May 19, 1912, Prof. Epps was married to Miss Annie Hudson a daughter of William and Louvenia Hudson. They have one child, Tymes R. Epps, Jr.

Though poor Mr. Epps had the advantage as a boy of excellent home training which gave direction to his whole life. In his reading he has found the Bible and Pilgrims Progress especially helpful as well as works on Physical Culture.

Prof. Epps has kept up his educational work and is now (1920) principal of the Green St. Public School. He is President of the Alumni Association of Central City College. He is also prominent in business circles, being Secretary of the Macon Business and Civic League and one of the Directors of the Liberty Savings and Real Estate Corporation. He is perhaps best known, however, as District Superintendent of the well known N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Among the secret orders he is identified with the Masons.

He is an active member of the Missionary Baptist Church and in addition to the positions which he holds in his local church is Secretary of the General Missionary B. Y. P. U. and Sunday School Convention of Georgia.

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## ROBERT HORACE BROOKS

Dr. Robert Horace Brooks, of Rome, is a recognized leader in the medical profession and is President of the State Medical Society. He is a native of Trinidad, British West Indies, where his father, Frederick Brooks, was a sugar planter. His mother's name was Catherine.

Young Brooks was given the advantages of the government schools of his native island, and later, for his classical course, attended Queen's Royal College of Trinidad. He came to the states in 1900 and spent one year in Howard University, Washington, D. C. He was called home the following year by the death of his mother, but returned June, 1902. He matriculated at Leonard Medical College, Raleigh, N. C., where he won his M. D. degree in 1916. He afterwards did post graduate work at Jefferson College, from which he went to Tuskegee Hospital as an interne, 1906.

On September 23, 1907, Dr. Brooks married Miss Annita Rochon, a native of Louisiana. They have two children, Robt. H., Jr., and Frederick V. Brooks.

From Tuskegee Hospital, Dr. Brooks went to Madison, Ga., where he took up the regular practice of his profession. During a residence of four years at Madison, he made more than a local reputation as a physician and surgeon. Being attracted to Rome, Ga., he located in that thriving city in 1912, where he has built up an extensive practice. He is identified with both the State and National Medical Societies and at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Medical Society at Rome, 1919, he was elected President of that organization. Since going to Rome he has organized the Nurse's Training School, of which he is dean, as a department of the Rome High and Industrial School. He has in mind plans for the establishment of a hospital at Rome.

Dr. Brooks is a member of the Catholic Church and retains his British citizenship. Apart from his professional reading, his taste runs to science.

Dr. Brooks is a genial, well informed man, admirably equipped for the work which he has undertaken.

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## GUS WILLIAM POLHILL

Many a man has been called from the pursuit of his own quiet prosperity and happiness to serve his fellow man in other and less lucrative lines; and the Negro race is blessed with numerous examples of this devotion to conscience and obedience to a



GUS WILLIAM POLHILL.



Divine call. Among the men of this class who are worthy of high esteem is Rev. Gus William Polhill, of the prosperous little city of Cordele.

He was born at Hawkinsville, May 2, 1872. His parents were Allen and Sarah (Toots) Polhill; his paternal grandparents were Allen and Edney Polhill and his maternal grandparents Sam and Mary Toots. All were farmers and had been slaves before Emancipation.

As a boy he attended the local public schools and later entered the Central City College, at Macon. His education was, however, very much retarded by reason of the fact that he was one of the older children of a very large family and thus had the duty of helping to support the younger brothers and sisters. His parents, while willing to give their children educational advantages, were too poor to do so except to a very limited extent.

From natural preference Mr. Polhill, while having traveled considerably, remained close to the soil and so skilled and progressive were his ideas of farming that he became one of the most prosperous and successful farmers in his section. He acquired and operated a five horse farm and life proceeded very smoothly for him until he felt called to preach the Gospel. He had been converted when about fifteen years of age and had joined the Green Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Houston County. In 1900 he was licensed and ordained to the full work of the ministry by the Piney Grove Baptist Church at Seville.

For a time he tried hard to manage his farming and keep up his pastoral work, but soon realized that the combined activities would result in his neglect of religious work. Accordingly he sold out his farming interests and followed in the footsteps of those self sacrificing men who have not counted the cost when principles were involved.

He has served a number of churches and has steadily grown in the esteem of the brotherhood. He is the type of man who does his work in such a way as to command the respect of the best people of both races. His first pastorate was at Pleasant Hill at Hadley, which he served for several years. A new house of worship was erected and many new members baptized. He has also pastored Zion Hill, Wilcox County, three years; Piney

Grove, Rochelle, seventeen years, where two new church houses have been built under his administration; Mt. Olive, Crisp County, six years; Oak Grove, near Cordele, twelve years, which saw the church first repaired and then rebuilt; Beach near Waycross, three years; Cedar Creek, Schley County, three years; Lizzie Chapel, Houston County, three years; Montezuma, three years and Friendship at Henderson, three years. At these various places he has baptized a total of hundreds of converts. In politics he is a Republican and belongs to the Masons, Pythians and N. C. Mutual Insurance Company. He is Moderator of his local association and makes his home in Cordele, where he has an attractive residence.

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## JAMES HENRY WIGGINS

Many a boy of ability born to conditions of poverty and obscurity surrender to their environments and thus go through life ill prepared for its tasks and unready to meet its opportunities and responsibilities. Occasionally, however, there is to be found a boy who early in life dares to dream dreams and see visions and who has the faith and the courage to make his dreams come true. Among the latter class must be mentioned Rev. James Henry Wiggins, A. B. D. D. a prominent minister of the C. M. E. Connection, who resides at Conyers. He is a native of Fort Valley, where he was born, September 5, 1881. His father, who still survives (1919), is Rev. James Wiggins, a superannuated Methodist minister who was active in the work for nearly forty years.

Having the advantage of a Christian home he early turned to the church. His mother who, before her marriage, was Miss Phally Robinson, was ambitious for the son and inspired him to do his best. Her parting exhortation to him to get an education was the greatest legacy she could have left him. As a boy he had attended the rural schools.

He was converted when about fifteen years of age. After the death of his mother he closed out his farming interests and went to Payne College, Augusta, to pursue his studies. He reached

there with only eight dollars. By dint of hard work and close economy he remained at that institution five years. He made an excellent record and had the wisdom to take care of himself physically as well as mentally. After awhile he was sufficiently advanced to pass the teachers examination and earned some money by teaching short terms. He was never idle. He had felt the call to the ministry soon after coming into the church and was licensed to preach at the age of twenty. As his school work progressed he began preaching and was soon in demand. His college course was completed at Morris Brown where he won his A. B. degree. Later still he took his Theological course at Gammon and won the B. D. degree in 1907. Paynes College conferred on him the D. D. degree. He joined the Conference in 1901 at Athens under the distinguished Bishop Holsey. As a preacher and pastor he was successful from the beginning. His first regular appointment was Rock of Ages Station, Augusta, where he preached one year and remodeled the church. From there he went to the important work of the Butler Street Station, Atlanta, where he preached for two years. The house was re-seated. He was then appointed to the Conyers Station and served it for four years. He moved to Conyers and has since resided there. At his own request he was then given Circuit work and appointed to the Newborn Circuit where he remained for four years. At the end of the quadrennium he was promoted to the district. He presided over the Athens District for one year and is now in his fourth year on the Augusta District.

As a pastor he was very successful and as an evangelist, he is in demand. He has long been recognized as a speaker of rare gifts. Both at Morris Brown and at Gammon he won high honors as an orator. He is popular among the brotherhood as is evidenced by the fact that he has been elected to three General Conferences. Dr. Wiggins is also a good business man and has accumulated considerable property in and around Conyers. His secret order affiliations are with the Masons, Pythians and Odd Fellows.

He has been married twice. In February, 1903, he was married to Miss Estella Shellman, of Louisville, Ga. She bore him one child, Estella, and passed away in 1904.

On January 27, 1910, he was married to Miss Bertha Dillard, of Conyers. She was educated at Spellman and taught before her marriage. They have five children, James H., Jr., Eloise, Mason C., Lavances and John Wesley Wiggins.

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## WILLIAM BOYD LAWRENCE

No account of present day religious activities in Georgia, especially as it relates to the A. M. E. Connection would be complete without reference to the character and career of Rev. William Boyd Lawrence, of Athens. He is a native of the old county of Washington, having been born at Davisboro on May 20, 1875. His father, Rev. Daniel G. Lawrence, was also a minister of the Gospel and lived to see his son a successful pastor. His mother, Mahala Ferguson, was a daughter of Eliza Ferguson.

Young Lawrence became of school age while the family was still in Washington County and went to the local public schools. After that, during his boyhood days, while his father was in the itinerancy, he attended school at various points. When ready for college he matriculated at Morris Brown, where he won his A. B. degree in 1901. Such was his record as a student that he was President and Valedictorian of his class.

He began teaching when little more than a boy and had he chosen to devote himself to the educational field, would have made a brilliant record. He was Principal of the Monticello schools for two years and also taught at Acworth after entering the ministry.

Having been brought up in a Christian home, it is not strange that his mind turned early to religious matters. He experienced the new birth when about sixteen years of age. With the example of his father before him, it was not long after his conversion before he had himself decided to dedicate his life to the ministry. He joined the Conference when he was twenty, at Cedartown, under the late Bishop Turner.

His first appointment was to the Carrie Steele Orphans' Home Mission, where he preached one year. From there he went to the Douglasville Circuit one year.



WILLIAM BOYD LAWRENCE.

He was successful from the beginning and was soon recognized by his denominational leaders as one of the rising young men of the connection. His next year was spent at St. James, Atlanta, where he repaired the church. After that he served Woolsey Circuit one year and Neal Station six months. In the middle of the Conference year he was sent to Marietta to succeed his father who had been called to his reward.

He was returned to the same station and remained another year, when he was appointed to the Aeworth Station. He preached there two years and built the parsonage. He went from Aeworth to Cartersville Station and pastored that church for three years. Here he began the splendid brick house of worship which was later completed.

His next appointment was Pierce's Chapel, Athens. After a successful pastorate of three years, he was promoted to the District and presided over the Athens District for three years.

He was sent from the Athens to the Washington District and presided over that for five years. He is now (1920) serving his first year on the Marietta District. He has resided at Athens since 1900. Rev. Lawrence has been elected to four General Conferences and has been assistant Secretary of two. He is now Secretary and Treasurer of his Annual Conference, having been Secretary for fifteen consecutive years. He is a Trustee of Morris Brown and Assistant Secretary of the Board.

On June 11, 1902, Rev. Lawrence was married to Miss Lucy M. Smith, of Rochelle. She was educated at Morris Brown and is an accomplished teacher.

He belongs to the Odd Fellows and in politics is a Republican. After having studied conditions for years at close range, he believes that the progress of the race depends on a square deal industrially, educationally and in the courts.

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## HAMILTON DAVID MARTIN

Among the strong men of the Baptist denomination in Georgia, few have a more interesting record than Rev. Hamilton David Martin, D. D., of Atlanta. He was born at Bordeaux, S. C., during that troublous period just after the close of the war.



HAMILTON DAVID MARTIN.

While the exact date is not known it was either 1866 or 1867. His father, the late Hon. Thomas Martin, was a farmer and served two terms in the South Carolina legislature. He was a son of Hamilton and Mary Martin. Dr. Martin's mother, before her marriage, was Miss Emily J. Moragne. She was a daughter of Eli and Fanny Moragne.

On Feb. 14, 1886, Dr. Martin was married to Miss Mattie Elizabeth Moragne, a daughter of Eli and Frances Moragne. They have nine children: Mayme D., Geneva D., Bessie M., E. T., Jimmie Lillian, G. H., Lutherine A., and Ja-Sula S. Martin.

Before he was twenty years of age, our subject lost his father and he and the older brothers became responsible for the support of the family. This added to his difficulties in securing an education. In fact, during his boyhood, he had only about three months schooling, four weeks of this was at a public school and two months at private school. His expenses at the latter were made by cutting and selling hay. It was after he had grown to manhood and married that he realized his long cherished desire for a higher education. He was prepared for college at Promised Land, S. C., and passed from there to Benedict College at Columbia. He carried on his Theological work along with his regular course and was graduated in 1892. In 1916 the D. D. degree was conferred on him by Selma University of Alabama. As a boy and young man he was fond of clean, healthy, outdoor sports. The example of his parents and the atmosphere of his home was such as to develop in the boy honesty, thrift and sound character.

While Dr. Martin's principal work has been that of the ministry he has also given some attention to teaching and farming.

He began his work as a teacher in 1893, in Elbert County, Ga., where he taught for three years. For the next ten years he taught in the rural and small town schools of North East Ga., including Royston and Carlton.

He was converted after he had reached mature manhood and was licensed to preach by the Cross Roads Baptist Church. On January 1, 1903, he was ordained to the full work of the ministry by the same church. His first pastorate was the Fork Creek Church at Carlton, which he served thirteen years and baptized over four hundred members.



He pastored Royston Grove, Royston, nine years, and baptized at least four hundred. More than two hundred and fifty new members were baptized into the membership of the Friendship Church at Toccoa, during a nine-year pastorate. From 1895 to 98 he served the Springfield Church at Elberton and baptized over two hundred. From 1898 to 1905 he pastored the Maple Spring Church, Elberton, and baptized three hundred and fifty. He resigned from the pastorate in 1905 to become Educational Missionary for Georgia, under the joint auspices of the Georgia State Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Society of New York, and rendered a little more than three years of effective service in that field. In 1908 he was called to the First Baptist Church of Thomasville, where he remained for nine years. While there the house of worship was repaired, the church debt paid and five hundred new members baptized. While in South Georgia, he also pastored the First Baptist Church at Pelham two years, Springhill two years and Aucilla one year. At all these points the work prospered under his administration. In 1916 Dr. Martin moved to Atlanta and is now (1920) serving the churches at Gainesville, Greenville and Calhoun.

Dr. Martin has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized into the membership of his own churches nearly three thousand. This does not take into account the large number converted in the revivals conducted by him for others. He has also been active in holding institutes and training schools.

Dr. Martin is chairman of the State Mission Board and when the two conventions were merged in Georgia, he was made President of the General State Baptist Convention to wind up any business which required official attention.

In politics he is a Republican. He belongs to the Masons, the Woodmen and the Odd Fellows. He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by "Christianization, thorough education, political rights, justice and moderation and freedom to all the trades and avenues of American life." His investments in Atlanta and other points have turned out well. He owns property to the value of at least sixteen thousand dollars.

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## CHARLES L. WALTON

Dr. Charles L. Walton, of Athens, was for a number of years identified with South Carolina, although he is a native of Georgia and has, in recent years, returned to his native state. He was born during the war, on March 24, 1862, at Cuthbert. His mother, Martha Fitzgerald, was a daughter of Benjamin and Pleasant Fitzgerald. There were sold as slaves from Petersburg, Virginia, to the Williams family of Randolph County, Georgia.

Coming to school age soon after the war when the schools for the colored people in the South were in charge of white teachers from the North, young Walton started to school at Cuthbert. His teachers were Miss Asbury and Miss Armstrong, of Boston, Mass. Later the family moved to Dawson, where the boy found employment in a store and attended the high school. When he had grown to young manhood he went to North Carolina, entering the Normal at Fayetteville and spent a number of years teaching. In fact, he began teaching before he left Georgia and at such an early age that county school superintendents at one time declined to let him take the examinations on account of his youth. After going to North Carolina, he taught two or three terms at Smithfield and was principal of the city graded school at Goldsboro for several years. From Goldsboro he passed to Shaw University at Raleigh where he won his B. S. degree in 1888. He then matriculated at Leonard Medical School and won his M. D. degree four years later.

Speaking of the early years of his life he says: "I can see that the influence of my mother and her deep interest in my education was the greatest factor in shaping my life."

On completion of his medical course, he located at Columbia, S. C., where he built up a successful general practice, after which he moved to Spartanburg for three or four years. In 1913 he came to Georgia, passed the State Board, and located in Atlanta, later moving to Athens where he has since resided and practiced. Prior to this, in 1909, he took a course in the Philadelphia Optical College with a view to working out of the general practice into the specialty of eye, ear, nose and throat. In 1917



Chas. L. Hutton, M.A.



he passed the Georgia Board of examiners in Optometry and has already built up a good practice in Athens. His practice is now limited to Refraction, Diseases and Surgery of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat.

While in South Carolina Dr. Walton was married, but later, after becoming a citizen of Georgia, divorced his wife. On December 3rd, 1919, he was married to Miss Leila B. Adams, of Watkinsville. She was educated at Spelman Seminary and is a successful teacher.

Dr. Walton is a Republican in politics, but beyond exercising the franchise has taken but little interest in party affairs. He is a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, belongs to A. F. and Accepted Masons, and the Pythians. He is local examiner for the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Co. and Standard Life Insurance Company, and is a member of the Georgia State Medical Association. He is also identified with the John A. Andrews Clinical Society, of Tuskegee, Ala.

Having been born just before his people emerged from slavery. Dr. Walton represents in striking way what has been accomplished in one generation of freedom. He is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church and takes an active interest in all plans looking to the benefit of the race. He believes that, in the last analysis, the progress of the race depends upon education in the broadest sense, to which should be added every opportunity and the privilege of a citizen of the United States.

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## WILLIAM GRAY

God speaks to his servants in many different ways, and they are blessed and themselves become a blessing in proportion to their obedience to the heavenly voice in whatever way it calls. He comes to some in the silence of the night and reveals Himself to others in the glare of the noon day. To one He speaks in the still small voice, to another in the turbulent flood or raging storm. The man who hears and follows on to do His will, comes to look to Him for leadership not only in the crises of life but from day to day.

This is illustrated by the life and experience of Rev. William Gray, a godly Baptist preacher of Savannah, Ga. He was born in Barnwell County, South Carolina, March 20, 1861. His parents were Ab and Charlotte Gray. On the mother's side, his grandfather was William Nichols, of Virginia, and Rev. Gray's mother was sold at the age of twelve to a family of Teutens of Barnwell Co., S. C.

Young Gray grew up on a farm and had the most meager opportunities for the acquiring of an education. As far back as he can remember he had a vague feeling that he must be a preacher and at an early age was accustomed to address his playmates and preach the funeral of whatever died on the place.

He was converted when about sixteen years of age. When he had reached the age of twenty he was married to Miss Sarah Brooks, of South Carolina. She bore him one daughter who grew to womanhood and married. Both Mrs. Gray and her daughter have passed to their reward.

When Rev. Gray had reached the age of thirty there came to him the definite call to preach the Gospel. It was in the spring and he was preparing to plant a crop when one night he heard a voice calling to him to go to Savannah, and preach. The simple call to preach would not have surprised him for he had thought of it all his life, but the definite call to an uneducated country man to go to the city and preach, startled him. Like Moses he found many reasons why he was not the proper man, but was told to go and he would have the Divine presence. He finally agreed to go at the end of the year, and made a fine crop. But he did not go to Savannah. The next spring the voice came to him again and he promised to educate his daughter and keep up his dues and be a good layman, but he who spoke would take no refusal and again the promise was made to go at the end of the year.

Another good crop was result of his efforts and when in the midst of his prosperity, he was preparing for a third crop, he again heard the voice, but this time with warning. However he went ahead with his planting as usual. Cotton was planted. His neighbors cotton came up and grew and the rains which made theirs bloom only made his come up. His corn was a failure, and the man who would not listen to the voice of God, sur-

rendered to adversity and proceeded to Savannah. Here he was employed as a coachman and went to night school. Later he went to the Georgia Industrial State College and in this way equipped himself for the work to which God had called him.

While pursuing his studies he had what seemed to be a message from the late Dr. Love exhorting him to persevere for he was to fill the place of that distinguished man of God. He did persevere and ten years ago when he came to be President of the Ministers Union the promise was fulfilled.

In 1891 he accepted the call of the St. John Baptist Church which he has since served without a break. When he took charge there were seven members, there are now two thousand. It has been necessary to rebuild twice in order to accommodate the growing membership. The various departments are well organized and the church in good condition. Eleven years ago he was made Moderator of the Berean Association which position he still holds.

He is seventh vice president of the State Baptist Convention. At first he was antagonistic to war, but was soon led to see that in the Divine plan the nation must be disciplined. So he became a leader in war activities and headed a call to prayer among his people.

Among the secret orders Rev. Gray is identified with the Masons and Pythians. He believes that all true progress must be based on character and that this can be had only through religion. He has not sought to make money primarily but is well fixed and comfortable.

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## PAUL LUTHER SCRUGGS

Rev. Paul Luther Scruggs, pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, of Atlanta, has fought his way up from poverty and obscurity to a place of large usefulness in the kingdom. He is a native of Dekalb County, where he was born July 10, 1879. His father, Rev. Martin Scruggs, was also a minister of the Gospel, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Robinson. The paternal grandparents of our subject were Joe and Rhoda Scruggs. They reared a large family of children.



PAUL LUTHER SCRUGGS.



Mr. Scruggs was married on February 20, 1905, to Miss Jennie Barnes, a daughter of Julius and Josephine Barnes. They have seven children, Paul L., Jr., Josephine, Hiram W., Grant M., Florence I. M., Marion J., and Marie J. Scruggs.

As a boy young Scruggs attended the Decatur schools where he made the most of the opportunities offered. When about nine years of age he was happily converted and joined the Thankful Baptist Church.

In 1895 he consecrated his life to the work of the Gospel ministry and was licensed to preach by the Thankful Baptist Church.

In 1899 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry and has since been in the active pastorate. Realizing the need of adequate preparation for his life work, he matriculated at what is now Morehouse College, where he studied three terms.

His first pastorate was the Oemulgee Baptist Church in Bibb County, which he served for three years. Since then his work has been in or near Atlanta, where he is regarded as one of the successful young pastors of the denomination. He preached at Ieonian Baptist Church two years; Bethesda, Austell, six years; Poplar Hill, Buford, one year; Poplar Springs, Dekalb County, two years; Traveler's Rest, East Atlanta, two years; Shiloh, near McDonough, three years, and the Bethlehem Church, Atlanta, since 1905.

He has rebuilt the Bethlehem Baptist church at an expense of ten thousand dollars, and completed the Shiloh Church costing sixteen hundred dollars.

He has had a fruitful ministry and many new members have been added to the churches under his care.

Looking back over the days of his boyhood and youth, Mr. Scruggs believes that the chief factors in shaping his life were his home training, study of the Bible and practical Christianity.

He is identified with the York Masons and is the founder and organizer of the Rising Star of Bethlehem, a benevolent society.

With reference to present day conditions he says: "The race problem is national in scope, but in its final solution must be locally determined. It is the problem of human relationship and this human relationship is reducible in the final analysis to one

white man face to face with one negro. I insist that the Negro problem can be solved only by the South. The North can advise and aid, that is all. Recognizing that the Negro is a permanent and increasingly important factor in the development of our national life, I believe that no enduring basis of good-will between the white and colored people of this country can be developed except on the fundamental principles of justice, co-operation and race integrity."

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## JOSEPH COPPLIS LINDSAY

Joseph Copplis Lindsay, one of the successful colored business men of Atlanta, was born at Wadesboro, N. C., December 22, 1868. His parents were Isaac and Temple (Lyles) Lindsay and his maternal grandparents Joseph and Jennie Lyles. Isaac Lindsay was a blacksmith and farmer.

He himself has been twice married, first on March 5, 1901, to Miss Amelia A. Davenport, of Anniston. Subsequently to her death he was married, on February 27, 1902, to Miss Lula B. Lewis, a daughter of Mary Lewis. They have five children: Joseph C., Jr., Annie W., Addie A., Richard W., and Amelia E. Lindsay.

His early educational advantages were limited to the public schools of Alabama, to which state his parents had removed during his boyhood, though he has added much to his stock of knowledge by observation and by miscellaneous reading, especially of current newspapers and periodicals. He also states that lines of reading he has found most helpful include the Bible and "The White Side of a Black Subject." Those who are familiar with the history of the dark race in America know that it has a bright side that is well worthy of study, especially when viewed in the light of further possibilities of development.

Not only has he had a somewhat varied business experience for some years, but he has also traveled more or less over about one-third of the states of the Union.

When in his twentieth year (in 1888) he began active work as bell boy in a hotel at Anniston, Ala., being promoted the next



JOSEPH COPPLIS LINDSAY.

year to porter, in which capacity he continued for two years. In 1891-1892 he was in the Government service and for the next seven years he was in the retail grocery business, but since 1899 he has been in the industrial insurance business, coming in 1909 to Savannah, Ga., where he was for nine years a superintendent of the Union Mutual. From 1906 to 1910 he was a notary public for Calhoun County, Alabama.

In politics he is a Republican and more or less active, having served as chairman of the Calhoun County (Ala.) Executive Committee. He is a deacon in the Baptist Church, and holds membership in the following secret orders: Masons, Odd Fellows and Golden Circle.

The expression of his opinion as to how the best interests of the race in the state and nation may be promoted, is to the point and business-like: "Just a little more well-planned, hard work and patience."

He has invested in the stock of various business enterprises in Alabama, Oklahoma and Atlanta, and is a stockholder and director of the Wage Earners' Savings Bank of Savannah.

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## JOHN ALLYN KIRKLAND

Rev. John Allyn Kirkland, D. D., who is a well known minister and educator in both Georgia and South Carolina, is now (1920) located at Fitzgerald, where he is at the head of the Baptist school work.

He is a native of the historic old town of Camden, S. C., where he was born on October 12, 1870. His father was a farmer. His mother before her marriage was Amy Emeline Cook. Her people, the Cooks, were brought from Virginia to South Carolina.

Dr. Kirkland's education stretches over a period of several years. The foundations were laid in his home town and county where he resided until he was sixteen years of age. His college work was done at Central City College, Macon, from which he was graduated in 1905. Later the same institution conferred on him the D. D. degree.

Dr. Kirkland has had the opportunity in one way or another to travel rather extensively which has added much to his knowledge and experience. He was converted at a very tender age and baptised into the Bethlehem Baptist Church by Rev. H. Mayrant, of Rembert, S. C., and just as he was turning into young manhood, at about the age of sixteen, he began preaching.

In fact he was ordained to the full work of the Gospel ministry at seventeen and was known as the boy preacher. His first regular pastorate was the Pearson Baptist Church, which he served for five years, teaching at the same time. Here he built a new house of worship and had a good growth in the congregation. He pastored the Naylor Baptist Church for four years and built a new church there also. He accepted the call of three churches in Thomas County which he repaired and served for three years, and continued to teach. In fact almost continuously, except when engaged in purely evangelistic work, Dr. Kirkland has combined his ministerial and educational work. Some of his pastoral work was done in Georgia while he was attending Central City College. So it will be seen that he is a profound thinker and an industrious man. For ten years he was in evangelistic work and Recording Secretary M. B. Convention of Georgia, in which he had marked success. In 1912 he was called back to his native state and served the church at Bishopville, S. C., one year. He also assisted in school at Lamar, S. C., doing evangelistic work when the opportunity offered. He then acted as pastor at Wilmington, N. C., for Dr. D. B. Masdona, and again engaged in educational work at Faison Institute, after which he taught for two years in the public schools of Eastern Carolina.

When, in 1919, there was a leader required for the work of the Baptist High School at Fitzgerald which is under the auspices of the Gum Creek and Willacoochee Associations, it was thought by those who were familiar with Dr. Kirkland's work that he would measure up to the requirements of the situation, and the results show that they made no mistake. With a faculty of five and an enrollment of two hundred and forty the future of the school under his leadership seems assured. The house which is new and modern in equipment, together with the seven acres of land surrounding it and which belong to it, is worth perhaps

more than fifteen thousand dollars and the institution is free from debt.

Dr. Kirkland has, during his work as an educator, taught hundreds of children and as a minister has baptized at least thirteen hundred into the membership of the church. So it will be seen that he has rendered a large service and has had a very fruitful ministry.

He was first married to Miss Martha Harris, of South Carolina. Subsequently to her death Dr. Kirkland was married to Miss Lina Shiver, of Hawkinsville, Ga. They have five children: William E. H., Isaac S., Robert B., Rachel J., and John A. Kirkland, Jr.

Dr. Kirkland is a regular attendant at the State and National Conventions of his denomination.

He is a Mason, but has not been active in politics. He has some property interests in both Georgia and South Carolina. He is naturally a gifted writer, eloquent pulpit orator and an ardent believer in education, and believes that it should be made both Christian and Industrial.

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## ISAAC ANTHONY COPPEDGE

Rev. Isaac Anthony Coppedge, one of the vigorous, active pastors of the Baptist denomination, resides at West Point, but is a native of Spalding County. He was born near Griffin, Ga., Feb. 8, 1874. His father, Tony Coppedge, was a farmer. He passed away when the boy was only nine years of age. His mother was Martha McDowell before her marriage.

On account of the death of his father, it was early necessary for the boy to go to work. Both as a boy and later as a young man he worked on the farm and on public works.

Fortunately he was converted at the early age of fourteen and identified himself with the Baptist Church. He soon felt called to the work of the ministry, but did not begin preaching till after he had reached mature manhood. He went to the public schools of Spalding County and attended Atlanta Baptist College a part of one term.



ISAAC ANTHONY COPPEDGE.

At the age of twenty-eight, he was licensed to preach by Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, and two years later was by the same body ordained to the full work of the ministry. Since then he has been very active in the work of the church and in recent years has given his full time to the work of the pastorate. Mt. Zion, Sargent, Ga., was the first church he served. He pastored that congregation for six years. Since then he has served Friendship sixteen months, Providence nine years, St. John eight years, West Point twelve years, Shiloh three years, Mt. Calvary three years, and Vernon Grove four years. In 1916 he moved to West Point where he has since resided. He has had a fruitful ministry and has baptized hundreds of members into the fellowship of the churches he has served.

He is not active in the work of either the secret orders or politics. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Western Union Association. He owns a home at Newnan, Ga.

Rev. Coppedge has been married twice. In 1892, when eighteen years of age, he was married to Miss Emma Lemons, a daughter of Richard Lemons of Spalding County. They had four children, Mattie Lou, Richard, Martha Lee, and Georgia May.

Subsequent to the death of his first wife, Rev. Coppedge was, on November 3, 1914, married to Miss Ida B. R. Pinkard, of Chambers County, Ala. She is a graduate of Spelman, and has for a number of years been a successful teacher. She enters heartily into her husband's work and is a leader in the Sunday School, the Young People's work, and the Mission Society. She is also an accomplished musician and leader of the choir.

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## DANIEL HENRY PORTER

Rev. Daniel Henry Porter, D. D., who has for many years been a prominent figure in the A. M. E. Connection of Georgia, is a native of the sister State of Alabama. He was born in Bullock County in that State on July 15, 1856. His parents were Henry and Nancy Porter, both of whom were slaves be-



fore Emancipation. The father was a tanner and a shoemaker by trade and the son also learned the shoemaker's trade.

During the war the family went from Bulloch, County, Ala., to Columbus, Ga. When the public schools were opened to colored people after the war, young Porter entered and made splendid progress in his studies. He had soon reached a point where he was able to teach school, and returned to Alabama for that purpose. He was engaged in this capacity for several years, both in Alabama and Georgia.

On October 24, 1885, Dr. Porter was united in matrimony to Miss Ellen Elizabeth Baker, Valdosta, Ga., who was educated at Cookman Institute, Jacksonville, Fla. She bore him four children. Their names are Richard H., Geo. L., Florence I., and Daniel H. Porter, Jr. In 1899 Mrs. Porter passed to her reward and in 1903, Dr. Porter was married to Miss Cora Lee Donaldson, of Thomas County, who was educated at Atlanta University.

Dr. Porter was licensed as an exhorter in February, 1880, licensed local preacher May, 1880, joined Georgia Conference in 1881, under Bishop F. Dickson, at Savannah, Ga.

Having gone North in the meantime, he was ordained deacon on June 24, 1882, by Bishop J. M. Brown at Newport, R. I. Two years later he was ordained Elder at Providence, R. I. by Bishop R. H. Cane. His first regular appointment under the Georgia Conference, was the Albany, Ga., Mission, where he preached one year. He went from there to Worcester, Mass., where he attended High School for three years. His health failing, he was transferred back to the South and for more than a third of a century has been a figure in African Methodism at the South. His first appointment after returning to Georgia was at Hawkinsville, where he preached for two years. Here he continued his studies under private instruction. From Hawkinsville he went to Valdosta for two years and from there to Darien for three years. After that he preached at Quitman two years and at Bethel Station, Savannah for three years.

From Savannah he went to Thomasville for four years and to Americus for two years. He served St. John, Columbus, one year, Warrenton one year, Gaines' Chapel, Savannah, one year,

Cochran Circuit one year, Buena Vista two years and Albany two years. In 1909 he was made Presiding Elder and has been on the districts for several years. He has built a number of new churches and parsonages and raised numerous church debts. He has always sounded the evangelistic note in his preaching and has brought hundreds of new members into the church. In recognition of his work and attainments Morris Brown University conferred on him the degree of D. D. He is a life member of the Board of Trustees of that institution and also a member of the Executive Board.

Among the secret orders he belongs to the Masons and Good Samaritans.

Dr. Porter has lived to see remarkable changes in the life of his people. He keeps his heart young and has an optimistic outlook on life.

Dr. Porter has been elected delegate to several General Conferences. He resides at Bainbridge, Ga.

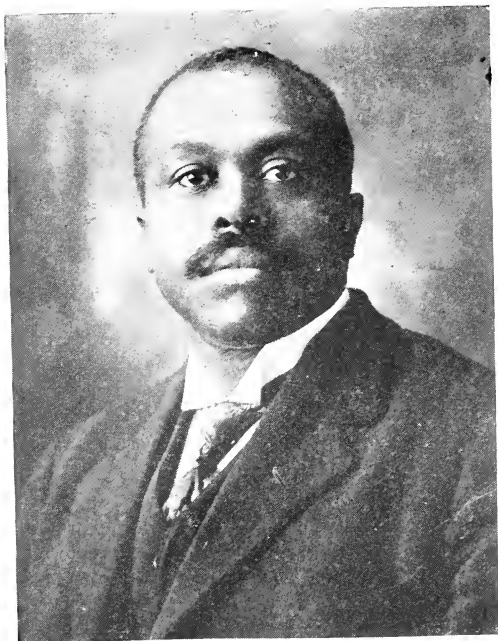
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## JOHN HENRY GILES WILLIAMS

The story of the life of Dr. John Henry Giles Williams, of Milledgeville, is full of interest to the young colored man who lacks opportunity and yet aspires to a place of usefulness and leadership among his people. He has struggled against difficulties, from a life of obscurity to success and prominence, and has done it without sacrificing his ideals or impairing his health.

He is a native of South Carolina, where he was born September 7, 1872. His father, Coleman Williams, was a slave, and was sold when nine years of age for one thousand dollars. His mother was Alice Sherrard.

Young Williams attended a graded school at Anderson, S. C., when a boy. Being the third of a family of thirteen children, even attendance at the graded school was not an easy problem. When, however, he aspired to a college education, the difficulties seemed insurmountable; but with a brave determination he entered Paine College, Augusta. His means



JOHN HENRY GILES WILLIAMS.

were soon exhausted. He was offered a school at Carnesville, but when he went to take up the work he found such division and dissension that he borrowed the money and returned to Augusta. Later he stood the teachers' examination in Jefferson County under difficulties which would have discouraged a less persevering youth, and after making the grade secured a school at Oldtown in that county. Later he taught in Hart County for some time.

Contact with educated men of his race, together with his acquaintance with books, opened up to him new fields, so that it was not long before he had made up his mind to enter the medical profession. Again the obstacles seemed almost insurmountable, but in the fall of '97 he entered Howard University, at Washington, and after paying the necessary entrance fees had only one month's board left. In the days that followed he felt the pinch of hunger and was confronted with the prospect of having to leave school for lack of means. He was fortunate, however, in making a connection with a family in the city where he earned his board by firing the furnaces during the winter. The following summer was spent in hotel service at White Sulphur Springs. Returning to the University, he was able to remain until February of the second year, and then went to Atlantic City, on borrowed money, landing in the midst of a snow storm. When driven almost to desperation in his efforts to find work, he finally secured a place at Belfont Hotel, where he remained till the fall, and then instead of returning to Howard, went to Leonard College, the medical department of Shaw University, at Raleigh, for the completion of his medical course. During the remaining years of his work as a student, he spent the summers in steamboat and hotel service. In this connection he acknowledges with gratitude the interest and kindness of Mrs. Emerson, of Maine, who greatly assisted him.

He completed his course with the degree of M. D., in 1904, and began the practice of his profession at Columbus, Ga., where he remained for nine months. At the end of that time he moved, in January, 1904, to Milledgeville, where he has since done a general practice in medicine and surgery. Almost from the beginning he has been successful.

On June 20, 1905, he was married to Miss Minnie Maud Miller, of Augusta, an accomplished teacher in the Maud Street Public School of that city. They have two children—John Henry Giles, Jr., and Grace Maud Williams.

Dr. Williams had not long been in Milledgeville before he began to take an active interest in everything relating to the progress and welfare of his people. He organized a drug store which has been in successful operation for eight years, and has been prominently identified with the work of the C. M. E. Church, in which he is a steward and a trustee. He has also been a lay delegate to two of the General Conferences. He is a Mason, Odd Fellow, and is also medical examiner for his local lodge. He is also identified with the I. B. O., and is State Examiner for that organization. He improves every opportunity to discuss with his people in an intelligent and helpful way their problems, and tries to develop in them a spirit of independence, intelligence, thrift and economy. That he practices the doctrines which he himself preaches, is shown by the fact that during the few years he has been in Milledgeville he has made for himself hundreds of friends, and bought and paid for a comfortable home, besides other town property which he owns.

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## HENRY MEARS

Henry Mears, a business man of Savannah, is a native of Screven County, where he was born February 2, 1871. His parents, John Mears and Biner (Harris) Mears, were both slaves. Back of his parents he knows nothing of his ancestry. His educational advantages were limited to the public schools, and to such work as he could do at night school. Even this was not obtained without a struggle; for he went to free public schools only eleven months; but having determined to get what education he could, he would not permit the fact that he had to work all day prevent him from studying at night. He would plow all day, walk three miles to night school, and then back to the plow the next day. At another time he would



HENRY MEARS.

snatch an hour at noon. Thus he struggled along till he was twenty years old. After that he worked for small wages till he was twenty-eight. In 1898 he was working as baggage-room porter at a salary of thirty-two dollars and fifty cents per month. This required his attention twelve hours a day for seven days in the week. Desiring to increase his earning capacity, he got a horse and wagon on credit and employed a boy at two dollars and a half a week to look after the delivery of baggage. In a few months he had succeeded in paying for the outfit, and the following year bought another horse and wagon for which he was able to pay cash. The organization of the transfer company some years later put him out of business, and made it necessary for him to change from that form of transfer work to the moving of furniture. In 1911 he was injured in a runaway—suffered a broken leg—which rendered him inactive for nearly a year; so in 1912 he combined the transfer business with a grain and feed business, which he now conducts at 309 Berrien Street, West.

In politics he is a Republican, though he has not been active in the party. He is a member of the M. E. Church, in which he is a Trustee, and among the secret orders is identified with the Masons and K. P.'s. He owns a comfortable home, and by hard work and careful economy has gathered about him considerable property. He believes the best interests of the race are to be promoted by self-support and co-operation.

On August 2, 1898, he was married to Miss Carrie Lee, daughter of James and Mary Lee, of Charleston, S. C. They have no living children.

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## WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BELL

There is inspiration and encouragement in the career and character of a man like Prof. William Augustus Bell, of Atlanta. He strikingly illustrates in his life and work the remark of an intelligent observer of men who said that the greatest asset any man could have was a desire to grow. Many a man has contented himself with no more than Prof. Bell had



WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BELL.



accomplished before he was thirty and has settled down to the narrowing routine of a mere position while his horizon became stationary. No so, Prof. Bell has been bigger than any position he has ever held, with the result that though still on the sunny side of forty, he is widely known as an educator. What is more unusual, he is an influential religious leader, although not a minister.

Prof. Bell is a native of Elberton, where he was born February 16, 1882. His father is L. H. A. Bell, a farmer and real estate dealer of Elberton, a story of whose life appears in Volume one of this work, where an account of his earlier life may be found. His parents gave him the benefit of exemplary Christian lives and the best educational advantages available. The boy attended first the Elberton public schools from which he passed to Paine College, Augusta. Here he was popular as a student and made a fine record. In college athletics he was active in baseball and tennis. He was graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1906.

In 1908 he was elected to the Chair of Mathematics at Miles Memorial College of Birmingham and served in that capacity till 1912. Such was the character of his work that in 1912 he was made President of Miles Memorial, being just thirty years of age. The following year he was called back to his Alma Mater to take the Chair of Sociology and Economics and was at the same time Dean of the College. He remained at Paines College till 1917, when he volunteered for Army Y. M. C. A. work and served as Executive Secretary at Camp Jackson till January, 1919. Here his previous training in educational and religious work stood him in good stead. In January, 1919, he was made Executive Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. Training School for Community Workers under the auspices of the International War Work Council. He conducted training schools at various places including Virginia Theological Seminary, Lynchburg, Gammon Theological Seminary, and at Hampton Institute. He was also on the headquarters staff of the Department of the Southeast, serving as secretary on the Inter-race Relations. In October, 1919, Prof. Bell was made Co-ordination Secretary of the Interchurch World Movement with headquarters in Atlanta. He is also secretary-treasurer of

the United Investment Corporation, Capital \$100,000.00, headquarters in Atlanta.

Prof. Bell is a member of the C. M. E. Church in which he has been active since boyhood. While at Paine College he was Superintendent of the Sunday School and taught two Theological subjects in the Seminary. As a public speaker he is direct, clear and forceful. Neither in his personal attitude nor in his public work is there any evasion or equivocation. He meets a situation squarely. If there is any fighting to do he hits hard but square from the shoulder, if it is hard work, he settles down to it without complaining. His favorite reading is along the line of Social Service, Devotional books and Poetry and Economics. He has traveled extensively in America.

On September 3, 1913, Prof. Bell was married to Miss Helen Matile Caffey, a daughter of Henry A. and Sarah Caffey, of Charleston, S. C. Mrs. Bell was educated at Beaufort, S. C. They have two fine children, Helen C. and William A. Bell, Jr.

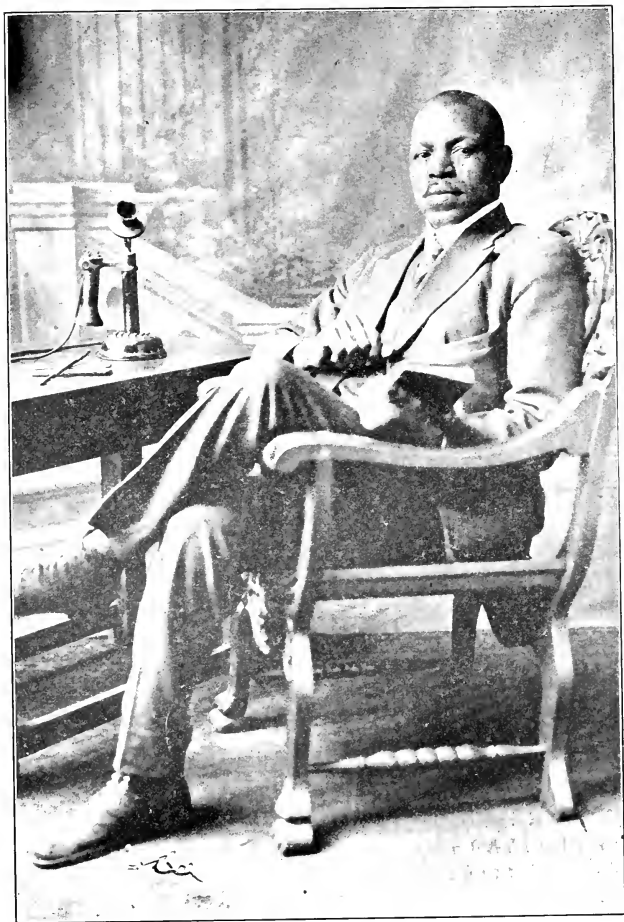
He is a member of the Board of Directors: Economy Laundry, Charleston, S. C., Atlanta Guide Publishing Co., National Farmers Cooperative Association.

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## PAUL DAVIDSON MOSS

Prof. Paul Davidson Moss is a remarkable man, widely known throughout the country for his work on behalf of Negro orphans and old folks at his institution on the outskirts of Augusta. He is a native of Wilkes County, having been born at Washington, December 24, 1884. His father, Reuben Moss, was a mechanic and his mother, before her marriage, was Julia Sutton. The boy seems to have inherited from his father a mechanical turn of mind.

From boyhood young Moss showed an aptness for mechanics and has attracted no little attention by his mechanical and electrical appliances. In fact, he has had numerous honors conferred on him on account of these and enjoys the distinction of having won first honor at every fair or exhibition at which he made exhibits. Almost from childhood he found it



PAUL DAVIDSON MOSS.

necessary to earn his own living and was deprived of every educational advantage except a short period at Nellerville Academy. He has not neglected study, however, but always seeks to make the most of his opportunities as they come to him. He has traveled extensively over the United States and Cuba, and has thus gained much practical knowledge of men and affairs. Though he has had little technical training he is a skillful workman in wood and iron and is also a good draughtsman.

In 1909 he organized the Paul Moss Orphanage and Industrial Home, of which he is founder, President and Manager. Beginning with nothing but some needy children from the streets and slums, Prof. Moss has, by concentrating all his powers on the work, built an institution which is at once a monument to his own industry, a blessing to the needy, and a credit to the race. For a good while he cared for those whose support he had undertaken by enlarging portraits, at which he is very talented. Notwithstanding the many discouragements with which he has had to contend he has managed (1920) to care for and train 257 otherwise helpless Negro boys and girls and has accumulated property valued at \$15,000. The home has been conducted in such a way as to commend it not only to the leaders of his own race, but to the best white people of North, East, West and South, especially Augusta and the vicinity in which he lives. His place presents an attractive appearance to the visitor. It is clean and well kept and ornamented with flowers and fruit trees. The site of the home embraces nearly eight acres, while the farm contains 210 acres. It grows cotton, corn, and much of the produce used at the home, while various industrial features such as mattress making, manufacturing caskets, chairs, etc., have been introduced into the home.

On January 15, 1920, the Home was opened to old folks also. In addition to this work, Prof. Moss is also Director General of the Two States Southern Exposition of Georgia & South Carolina, and President of the United Old Folks and Rescue Home.

He has not been active in political matters. He is a member of the M. E. Church and also identified with the Odd Fellows, Masons and K. of P. He makes frequent journeys with a band of his boys, into various parts of the country and always

attracts favorable attention wherever he goes. He now travels in a motor truck and car, and this is one of his methods of supporting his work.

On May 10, 1905, he was married to Miss Cora Walker Reed, daughter of James and Sarah Reed. She was educated at Walker Baptist Institute and Spelman Seminary and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. She now enters heartily and loyally into the work of her husband. Together they are devoting their lives to "these little ones" and deserve the respect and support of the good people of both races everywhere. They have had three children, all of whom have passed away.

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## THOMAS JEFFERSON SIMPSON

One of the influential energetic men of the Baptist denomination in South Georgia is Rev. Thomas Jefferson Simpson, of Albany. He was born at Box Springs in Talbot County, December 26, 1870. His parents were Henry and Mary Simpson, both of whom were born in slavery. His grandparents on his father's side were sold to a slave trader when Henry Simpson was a very small boy, so that he did not even remember his parents' names. His only recollection of them was that he saw them driven away with a number of others. Rev. Simpson's maternal grandparents were Harry and Mahulda Willis.

Rev. Simpson grew up on the farm and the days of his boyhood and youth were divided between the public school at Hamilton and the farm. This was kept up until he was nineteen years of age. Anyone who has passed through such an experience knows that it is not an easy task to work mornings and evenings, trudge some miles to school and spend a part of the night in study. When he was about nineteen, our subject decided to take up a trade and learned shoe repairing. He soon realized the limitations of this line of work and drifted into the barber and carpenter trades and in this way earned money enough to go for two terms to Tuskegee.



THOMAS JEFFERSON SIMPSON.

On the second Sunday in October, 1892, he was baptized by the Rev. W. R. Forbes, pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church at Hamilton and became afterwards its Sunday School superintendent for many years.

After entering the ministry, our subject realized the need for better preparation for his life work and took a two year theological course at Morehouse College, which he completed in 1907, at Central City College, Macon. The first regular call which he accepted was from Roberson Grove, a small church in Harris County, which he served for one year. As a pastor he was successful from the beginning and added a number of new members. While at Morehouse, he served the First Baptist Church at East Point.

One of his most successful pastorates was the first Baptist Church at Albany, which he served for seventeen years. During his administration a new house of worship was erected at a cost of \$15,000... and he baptized 538 new members. In 1916 he organized at Albany the Mt. Hebron Baptist Church, having in 1907 laid the corner-stone of the First Baptist Church edifice. In 1919 he put under way a new church building to cost approximately ten thousand dollars, and has a growing congregation. In 1916 he accepted churches near Columbus and moved there temporarily. He has served the church at Buena Vista since 1900, and erected a new church there at a cost of \$2,500.00. His work at Ellerslee, Ellaville and Richland is in prosperous condition. He has given considerable attention to evangelistic work and has baptized at least 1,500 new members. He is a Trustee of Central City College and a member of the Executive Board of the State Convention and was for eight years Moderator of the Mt. Olive Union Association.

On June 17, 1899, he was married to Miss Stella Thomas, a daughter of William and Flora Thomas, of Columbus. Of the four children born to them, three are living. They are Flora Bell, Vera Alberta and Tommie Sene Velma Simpson. The one son, Antonio Macio, died young.

Rev. Simpson's secret order affiliations are with the Odd Fellows, in which he has held numerous local offices. He has also served as Chairman of the Endowment Board of the United Order of Benevolence.

His life has been, since his first church membership, in serving the Lord. He is yet a strong, energetic worker in the State. Rev. Simpson is an eloquent and forceful preacher whose power has brought many souls to Christ. He has a gift of apt epigram that is very effective. He believes that "an ounce of cheerfulness is worth a pound of sadness in serving God," and "What you can carry away with you (salvation) is worth tons of riches you must leave behind." He loves the children and always sees, according to the following verses, the man in the boy:

"In the acorn is wrapped the forest,  
In the little brook the sea;  
The twig that will sway with the sparrow today  
Is tomorrow's sturdy tree;  
There is hope in a mother's joy,  
Like a peach in its blossom furled,  
And a noble boy, a gentle boy,  
A manly boy is King of the World."

That is the kind of a boy he was, and as he grew he also grew in grace and in knowledge of truth.

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## THOMAS JOSEPH LINTON

Rev. Thomas Joseph Linton, B. D., D. D., of the A. M. E. Connection, is a rare combination of the scholar, the orator and the business executive. This may in part be accounted for by the fact that he bears in his veins the blood of three races, the Negro, the Indian and the Caucasian. Most of his versatility, however, must be attributed to his hard work as a student not only in the schoolroom but throughout his career. Had his powers been directed to politics or business, it is easy to see what a leader he would have been.

He was born at Key, Brooks County, Georgia, on August 10, 1869, and by investigation has learned more of his ancestry than most colored people know of their ancestry. His father, Henry Linton, was a carpenter and a devout Christian man. His mother, before her marriage, was Julia Perkins. Dr. Lin-





THOMAS JOSEPH LINTON.

ton's paternal grandparents were Joe and Katie Linton, the grandmother having been brought over into Georgia from Florida. Going back to the next generation, his great-grandfather was Moses Linton, a white man of prominence in Southwest Georgia. On the maternal side there is a strain of Indian blood, inherited from his mother's father, who was half Indian. Her mother was Penny Perkins. The maternal grandfather's father was a full blooded Indian.

Young Linton grew up on the Brooks County farm. So free and easy was the life among the white and colored boys on the farm that he was fourteen years of age before he realized there was any difference. He went to such schools as were provided for the colored children in those days.

When he was nineteen years of age he married Miss Lessie Thomas, of Thomas County. Two boys were born to them: Thomas J., now a successful tailor in Iowa, and Willie Calvin, who is preparing for the bar at Syracuse University. The first Mrs. Linton passed to her reward on March 21, 1893. Subsequent to her death, on December 30, 1908, Dr. Linton was married to Miss Timmie Bowman, of Madison.

Dr. Linton was converted when he was twenty-two years old and joined the A. M. E. church. Feeling called to the work of the ministry, he also felt the need for better preparation which led him to take up private studies under Prof. F. G. Snelson, Sr., of Waycross.

He joined the Conference at Quitman in 1895, under Bishop Abraham Grant, and was assigned to the Milltown Circuit, where he remained a year and built a church. From Milltown he was sent to Pavo Station where he built another church. From the beginning his work had been successful and the following year he was given the important work of the South Macon Station where he remained for three years and built a new church. While on this work he entered the Central City College and took the courses in English and Primary Theology. The following year he was transferred to St. Phillips Station, Atlanta, which gave him the desired opportunity to pursue his studies at Morris Brown University. After serving St. Phillips a year and a half he was appointed to what is now the Cosmopolitan Station which enabled him to finish his Theo-

logical course with the degree of B. D. Later the degree of D. D. was also conferred on him by Morris Brown University. In 1905 he was promoted to the presiding eldership of the Monticello District and remained on that work for three years. Seeking still better to fit himself for larger service in the kingdom he took from Boston University a correspondence course in New Testament Greek, Church History and English. Later still he took English, Public Speaking and History under Greenville Kleiser.

In 1908 he was sent to the First Church, Athens, for a year and a half and from Athens to Bethel Station, Augusta, for three years.

Here his splendid executive ability was brought into play in connection with the organization, building and financing the colored Y. M. C. A., the biggest at that time for his race in the South, and paid off the mortgage debt that had burdened the good people of Bethel A. M. E. church for twenty-five years.

From Augusta he was sent to Sparta and here organized and put into operation the Colored Fair Association through the co-operation of the leading white men of the community as well as the Negroes. From Sparta he was sent to Griffin where the work greatly prospered under his administration. He remained on the Griffin Station during 1915 and 1916 and from there went to the Swainsboro District, Augusta, Georgia, Conference and presided over this district during 1917 and 1918. From the Swainsboro District he went to the Sandersville District, where he remained during 1919. He is now (1920) on the Dublin District.

Dr. Linton's career has been marked with success wherever he has gone. The work has been built up in both members and financial strength. In politics he is a Republican and when younger was rather active. He belongs to the Masons, Odd Fellows and Pythians. Next after the Bible his favorite reading is History. He has attended four General Conferences, three as a delegate and one as a visitor. He is connected in a business way with a number of progressive institutions, such as the Herald Book and Publishing Company, the United Commercial Exchange Service Company and others. He is prominently connected with the big Connectional Drive of the

A. M. E. Church. He is a member of the Trustee Board of Morris Brown University. Dr. Linton is regarded as a cool headed business man as well as a powerful Gospel preacher. His home is at 20 Fitzgerald Street, Atlanta.

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## PERRY R. REDWINE

P. R. Redwine, one of the most successful Negro farmers of Paulding County, was born in Fulton County at the old Jake Redwine place about 1863. His parents were both slaves. His father, Allen Redwine, had been trained as a blacksmith as well as a farmer. His mother, Maria Redwine, was brought from Virginia to Georgia. Mr. Redwine knows nothing of his people back of his parents.

When he was a small boy the family moved to Coweta County, and while living there he got all the education has was ever able to secure. His schooling amounted to no more than six months in all. Brought up to the hardest sort of work, he farmed, dug wells, ditched, split rails, or did anything by which he could earn a living. Yet he never seemed to get much ahead while he worked for others.

In 1900 he moved to Paulding County, bought a mule and some other stock and began farming for himself. He now owns seven mules, a horse, and considerable other stock. He no longer rents land, but owns a plantation of nearly four hundred acres, worth more than five thousand dollars. So it will be seen that he is among the substantial citizens of his county and is well fixed in every way.

On December 27, 1884, he was married to Almeda Long, a daughter of Albert and Emeline Long, of Coweta County. They have ten children: Annie (dead), Areithus, Perry Allen, Henry Irving, Lizzie, Callie, Savannah, Mattie Lee, William Alvord, and Lula Redwine.

Mr. Redwine places the Bible at the head of the list of important and helpful books. He is an active member of the M. E. Church in which he is district Steward. He is also a Mason. He is a man of energy and of character. He has made



PERRY R. REDWINE AND WIFE.

for himself a place in the life of his community, and is a worthy example to the young and rising generation. His success is due to hard work, economy and patient endurance. What he has done others can do if they are willing to pay the price.

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## HIRAM HAROLD THWEATT

A man who loves his race and is working earnestly for their educational and moral uplift, is Prof. Hiram Harold Thweatt, principal of North Side High School, of Waycross, Ga. He was born at Tuskegee, Ala., June 11, 1864, son of Raymond F. Thweatt, contractor and builder, and Lucinda (Campbell) Thweatt. His parents were slaves, and his mother's master was the late George W. Campbell, banker and president of the local Board of Commissioners of the Tuskegee Institute, who also signed Hiram's diploma upon his graduation from that institution. Prof. Thweatt speaks interestingly of his family history. "My mother," he says, "Lucinda Thweatt, was born in Lincoln County, Georgia, in 1840. Her owners would go down to Augusta, about thirty miles, to trade. Her father's name was Harry and her mother's Sarah; both were Wrights, belonging to a man by the name of John Wright. Her maternal grandparents, Lewis and Mary Wright, also belonged to the same man. Of her paternal grandparents, my mother knows nothing certain, only that their home was in Virginia, from which state her father was brought. When my mother was seven years old, the Wrights, to whom she belonged, moved from Georgia to Macon County, Alabama, where she has ever since lived. My mother was one of fourteen children, full sisters and brothers. My mother's grandmother lived to be one hundred years old and then went blind, staying so till she was one hundred and ten, when her sight returned. She died at the age of one hundred and fifteen, in Lincoln County, Georgia. My father, Abraham Shaffer Thweatt, was born in Jones County, Georgia, at Clinton, June 20, 1833. His mother's name was Jancie, and his father's name Abram, both belonging to a man by the name of Thomas Thweatt. His



HIRAM HAROLD THWEATT.

father was born in 1810, and died in 1835, my father being only two years old. His father was a fine blacksmith by trade, but also did wheelwrighting and cabinet work. His father was the second husband of his mother, who had only had four children, two by the first husband, Hiram and Rachel, and two by the second, Sarah and my father, who was the younger. My father has no memory of his grandparents. In 1850 my father's owners moved with him to Louisiana, but in 1856 started back to Georgia. He went no farther than Tuskegee, Ala., where my father lived till his death, August 26, 1910."

Between 1870 and 1880, young Thweatt attended the common schools of Tuskegee. Upon the establishment of Tuskegee Institute, he was among the first to matriculate in that now famous institution, and was graduated therefrom in 1885. Later he took additional courses in Latin, French and German. He has also studied Spanish, of which, as well as of Latin and French, he has a good reading knowledge. But though he had superior educational advantages, his way was not altogether easy, by any means; for during the whole of the time he was acquiring his education, it was necessary for him to put in all available time during the afternoons and vacations at hard work. His success in life and the formation of his character, he attributes more to his father's and mother's correct ideas of life than to anything else; and though when a boy his associates sometimes smoked, chewed or drank, he did not participate even then in those or other forms of vice.

As we have said, his father was a carpenter and contractor. As a boy Hiram assisted him in laying shingles or doing other work about the buildings which he constructed.

It was his purpose to follow his father's occupation; but Providence decreed otherwise. When he was fourteen years of age, a house fell on him and broke his thigh. In 1882, while assisting his father to erect Porter Hall, the first building erected for Prof. Washington's school, he fell from the building forty-six feet to the ground, and broke the same leg that had been broken six years before, as well as sustaining other minor injuries. This crippled him for life and necessitated his abandoning the carpenter trade, and he took up teaching, of which



he has made quite a success. From 1885 to 1886, he was assistant principal at Lafayette, Ala.; 1886-1887, teacher at Clietta Station; 1887-1890, Shelby Springs and Cusseta, Ala.; 1890-1892, assistant principal and teacher of Carpentry at Clay Street Industrial School, Thomasville, Ga.; 1892, teacher at Sunny Hill, Fla.; 1892-1893, principal of Brewton Academy, Brewton, Ala.; 1893-1896, principal of Christianburg Institute, Cambria, Va.; 1896-1914, principal of Clay Street High School, Thomasville, Ga., from which he resigned for financial reasons, and became U. S. Deputy of the American Woodmen. After fathering two camps, at Moultrie, and Macon, Ga., he went back to the school room and became Dean of the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute, Albany, Ga., where he re-organized the course of study and placed it on a standard basis. For his two years' work here, he was complimented very highly by the president, Dr. J. W. Holley. The war bore down heavily upon the school financially, and Mr. Thweatt reluctantly left the institution to become superintendent of the Georgia Mutual Insurance Co., Waycross, Ga., remaining with the company one year, he left and went to Chicago to work for the New York Accident Society, of New York City. He was not with this company long before he received a telegram from Mr. Carlton W. Gaines, president of the Negro Bank, Waycross, Ga., to return to this city to take charge of North Side High School, which position he now holds.

While at Christiansburg Institute, Clay Street High School, and Albany Institute, Mr. Thweatt signed the diplomas of over one hundred graduates who are on the whole making good in all the trades and professions. He and his students, mutually, point to each other with a pride that time intensifies.

Prof. Thweatt has been twice married: first in 1891 to Miss Jancie E. Hunter, of Opelika, Ala. She proved a valuable aid to him in his educational work, and also bore him three children: Lillian Chace, Desdemona Osgood and McKinley Hobart. Subsequent to her death, which occurred in 1910, he was married a second time to Itaska Beatrice Giddens, of Paris, Tex., under rather romantic circumstances. **He and she had never seen each other prior to the date of their marriage.** She

was recommended to him by his brother, the principal of the city schools of Paris, Tex. A correspondence ensued which resulted in a marriage engagement, she coming to Georgia, where he and his pastor and friends met her at Bainbridge and the marriage was there performed on the train. This took place on April 25th, 1913. No regrets have been entertained by either party since, as they seem to be admirably suited to each other, and it is to be hoped that the romance may be made complete by their "living happily ever after." Two girls, Hiram and Hollena, have blessed their union.

Prof. Thweatt has traveled through all the Atlantic, Middle and Southern States, first as a Jubilee Singer of the Tuskegee Institute, and later as a solicitor of funds for the industrial school at Thomasville, Ga. He is an accomplished musician, and is the author of some musical compositions which have attracted favorable attention, including the popular air to which the song "The Negro In It," is sung. He also takes great interest and pride in the military record of his race, and has compiled and published a booklet of newspaper comments on the record of the famous "Fighting Tenth" at San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American war. His preferred reading has been along the lines of pedagogical, philosophical and historical works, with a little mixture of poetry and fiction. In politics he is a Republican; in 1901 was a mail carrier, and in 1910 Census Enumerator at Thomasville, Ga., and Census Clerk at Washington, from each of which positions he received honorable dismissal. In 1886 he was nominated for Representative in the Alabama Legislature, but declined. From 1904 to 1906, he was president of the State Teachers' Association; 1905-1906, vice president for Georgia of the National Negro Association; 1896-1903, president of Thomas County Institute; 1910, president of Census Social Club, Washington, D. C., in which thirty states were represented. He is an active member of the A. M. E. Church, and has filled the positions of Sunday School teacher, steward, class leader, leader of choir, secretary, and Sunday School superintendent.

He is president of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., Waycross. His record shows thrift and business capacity, and in addition to his home he owns a hundred acres of timber land.

With a record like this, it is no wonder that Prof. Washington has pointed with pride to Prof. Thweatt as one of his first graduates.

With a life devoted to the uplift of his people, it is natural that he should have given much thought to the question as to how their interests can best be promoted in Georgia and the nation, and his reply to this question is: "Stress character, high regard for truth and honesty, cleanliness in the home and around the premises; great emphasis should daily, and weekly, and at all times, from the pulpit and school room, be placed upon the injurious and suicidal effects of strong drink."

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